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Scotland

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Map enclosed



EDZELL CASTLE.

THE
History and Traditions
OF THE
LAND OF THE LINDSAYS

IN ANGUS AND MEARNS,

WITH NOTICES OF ALYTH AND MEIGLE.

BY ANDREW JERVISE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

AN APPENDIX

CONTAINING EXTRACTS FROM AN OLD RENTAL BOOK OF EDZELL AND LETHNOT;
NOTICES OF THE RAVAGES OF THE MARQUIS OF MONTROSE IN ANGUS-SHIRE,
AND OTHER INTERESTING DOCUMENTS.



EDINBURGH:
SUTHERLAND & KNOX, GEORGE STREET.

1853.

ABERDEEN :
PRINTED BY JOHN AVERY,
UNION STREET.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
ALEXANDER-WILLIAM-CRAWFORD, LORD LINDSAY,

HEIR APPARENT TO THE EARLDOMS OF CRAWFORD AND BALCARRES,
AND TO THE BARONIES OF LINDSAY, WIGAN, &C. &C.,
AUTHOR OF LIVES OF THE LINDSAYS, AND OTHER VALUABLE WORKS,

This Volume,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE INTERESTING HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF THE ESTATES
WHICH WERE SO LONG POSSESSED BY HIS NOBLE ANCESTORS,
IN THE COUNTIES OF ANGUS AND MEARNES,

IS, BY PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

P R E F A C E.

IT may be proper to remark that this volume is the first which the Author has published—a fact which will perhaps account for its numerous defects in composition and arrangement. The Writer has devoted much of his leisure to the study of the history and antiquities of his native district—has felt the greatest pleasure in doing so—and has occasionally published scraps on the subject in provincial newspapers. These notices (which were all very defective) related chiefly to churchyard matters, and to descriptions of remarkable antiquarian and historical peculiarities. In course of time, these not only gained provincial favour, and the good opinion of several gentlemen of literary note at a distance, but were so far useful, from the fact, that greater care has been shewn for antiquarian relics since their publication, and a marked improvement has taken place in the mode of keeping many of the churchyards and tombstones in the district.* The present volume owes its origin to the general interest which one of these papers created at the time; and from the kindness and courtesy of the Right Hon. Lord Lindsay, who was pleased to remark, in reference to the notice referred to,—“I wish your account of Glenesk had been published in time to have enabled me to avail myself of it in the ‘Lives.’”

No apology is necessary, it is presumed, for the title of this volume. The Lands, of which it is intended to preserve the History and Traditions, have been purposely selected, and were, at one time or other, under the sway of the powerful family of Lindsay-Crawford. Glenesk was the birth-place of the first Earl

* From the favour with which these notices were received, the Author purposes, at some after period, to publish them in an enlarged and improved shape.

—Finhaven and Edzell were the cherished abodes of the family so long as its power survived; and its various members were proprietors of important portions of the Mearns from a remote to a late period. Although these estates have long since passed to other hands, and the family is merely represented in its fatherland by a collateral branch, it is pleasing to know that the ancient title is still enjoyed by a lineal descendant of the original stock, whose son and heir-apparent is the impartial and elegant biographer of his illustrious progenitors.

Though traditions of the Lindsays are not so plentiful in the district as they were of old, when the hills and dales and running brooks were less or more associated with stories of their daring and valour—enough remains to shew the almost unlimited sway which the family maintained over the greater portion of Angus, and a large part of Mearns-shire. Like the doings of other families of antiquity, those of the Lindsays are mixed with the fables of an illiterate age; and, though few redeeming qualities of the race are preserved in tradition, popular story ascribes cruel and heartless actions to many of them. Still, extravagant as some of these stories are, they have not been omitted, any more than those relating to other persons and families who fall within the scope of this volume; and, where such can be refuted, either by reference to documentary or other substantial authority, the opportunity has not been lost sight of.

The way in which erroneous ideas have been reiterated regarding old families, and the transmission of their properties, &c., has led to much confusion, the sad evils of which are most apparent to those who attempt to frame a work of such a nature as the present. From the Author's desire to correct these errors, the book will, perhaps, have more claim to the title of a collection of facts regarding the history and antiquities of the Land of the Lindsays than to a work of originality and merit, and may, therefore, be less popular in its style than most readers

would desire; but this, it is hoped, has been so far obviated by the introduction of snatches regarding popular superstitions, and a sprinkling of anecdote. Due advantage has been taken of the most authentic works which bear on the history of the district, for the use of the greater part of which, and for a vast deal of valuable information, the Writer is particularly indebted to the kindness of Patrick Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar. He is also under deep obligation to the Right Hon. Lord Lindsay, not only for many important particulars which he has been pleased to communicate regarding his family history, but for the great interest he has taken in otherwise advancing the work.

In notices of pre-historic remains, the lover of antiquity may find the volume rather meagre. This, the Writer is sorry to remark, has arisen, in a great measure, from the *penchant* which most discoverers have of breaking any valuable relics with which they meet. For, although a change for the better has recently taken place in the mind of the general public regarding antiquities, the peasantry, into whose hands those treasures are most likely to fall, have still a sadly mistaken view of their value; and, in the vain hope of being enriched by the supposed wealth of their contents, they not infrequently deprive themselves of remuneration altogether, but, in destroying pieces of pottery-ware, metals, and similar articles, tear so many leaves—so to speak—from the only volume which belongs to the remote and unlettered past, and thus place the attainment of some important particular regarding the history of our forefathers—perhaps for ever—beyond the reach of enquiry. The baneful law of *treasure trove* has much to account for on this score; but, there is reason to believe, that the evil might be so far modified, through an express understanding between landlords and tenants, and tenants and servants.

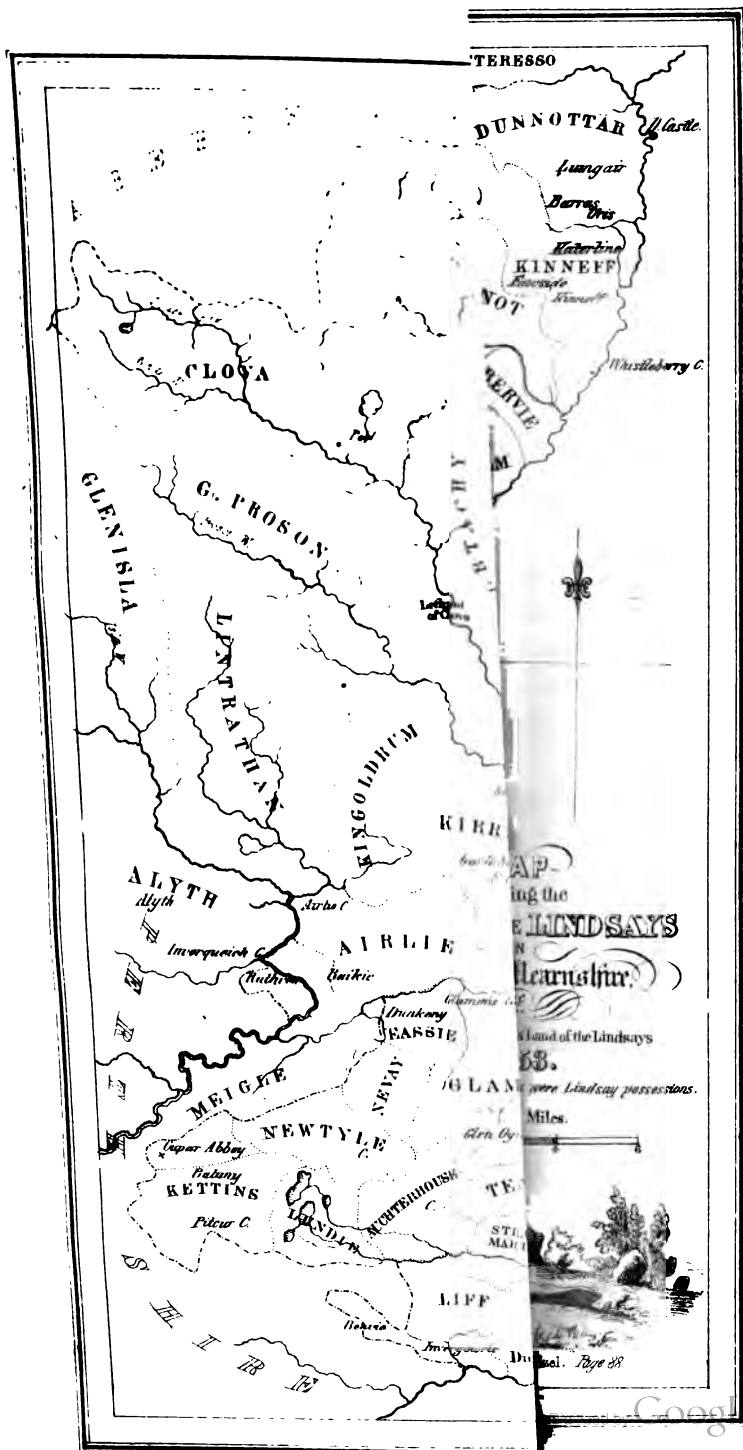
The Appendix will be found to contain many interesting and hitherto unpublished papers, particularly those illustrative of

the ravages of the Marquis of Montrose and his soldiers in certain parts of Angus. The old Rental Book of Edzell and Lethnot, from which copious extracts have been taken, was lately rescued from total destruction in a farm "bothie" in Lethnot. Though a mere fragment, the portion preserved is important, not only from its shewing the value and nature of the holdings of the period, but from its handing down the names of many families who are still represented in the district.

In thanking his numerous friends and subscribers for their kind support, the Author feels that some apology is necessary for the delay which has occurred in the publication. This has arisen from two causes—mainly from a protracted indisposition with which the Writer was seized soon after advertising the volume; and, partly, from including in it the history of the minor Lindsay properties in Angus, and of those in Mearns, &c.—an object which was not originally contemplated. From the latter cause the volume has necessarily swelled far beyond the limits at first proposed; still, the Author does not feel himself justified in increasing the price to subscribers, but the few remaining copies of the impression will be sold to non-subscribers at a slight advance. He begs also to express his deep obligation to those who took charge of subscription lists, and so disinterestedly and successfully exerted themselves in getting these filled up, as well as to various Session-Clerks, and numerous Correspondents, for their kindness in forwarding his enquiries.

ANDREW JERVISE.

BRECHIN, August, 1853.



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LAND OF THE LINDSAYS.

CHAPTER I.

Edzell.

“My travels are at home;
And oft in spots with ruins o’erspread,
Like Lysons, use the antiquarian spade.”

SECTION I.

THE name of this parish, in old times, had a different orthography from that now in use. At the beginning of the thirteenth century it was written “Edale,” and “Adel” in the ancient *Taxatio*, which was rated at a subsequent period.* In both cases the word may be considered as essentially the same, signifying “plain or meadow” ground, and quite descriptive of the most valuable half of the parish, or that part which lies without the boundary of Glenesk. In Rolt’s Life of John, the twentieth Earl of Crawford, it is written “Edgehill,” and so pronounced at this day, by some old people, and believed by many to be the true etymon, from the fact that the great bulk of the arable land lies from the *edge* of the *hill* southward.† In all documents posterior to the date of the two first, however, the orthography differs little from the present, and according to the late venerable Minister, implies “the cleft or dividing of the waters,”—a rendering which is also favoured by the physical aspect of the parish, in so far as it is bounded on the south and west by the West Water, and on the east by the North Esk, both of which rivers unite at the south-east extremity.

* *Registrum de Aberbrothoc*.—Bannatyne Club, Edin. 1848, pp. 7. 43, 240.

† Perhaps the present spelling arose from *z* being often used for *g* in old writings.

Etymologies at best are matter of conjecture, and although, in many cases, conclusions are arrived at with much apparent reason, they are constantly subjects of doubt, arising from the obvious fact, that inferences are too often drawn from the corrupted forms now in use, instead of from the original and more ancient. It is agreed on all hands that modern names are far from improvements on the originals, which are ever descriptive of the situation, or other physical peculiarities of the soil; and, what is perhaps still more valuable, they occasionally furnish a key to the status and particular nature of the holdings and occupations of the tenants of the remote past. In the neighbourhood of the site of the old Castle of Dalbog, for instance, we have the "Serjan' Hill," or the place where the old serjeant of the barony resided; while the "temple lands" scattered over almost every part of Scotland imply, not, as popularly believed, that the places were the sites of temples in early times, but that the lands were held first under the superiority of the old fraternity of Knights Templars, and afterwards under those of St. John of Jerusalem, the latter of whom flourished in Scotland until the first Reformation. In like manner, the "kiln" and "sheeling" hills, shew the places where corn was dried and unhusked prior to the introduction of machinery; and "the sucken lands," are still well known in some districts, though few, in comparison to the number of places so called in more ancient times, and indicate that certain payments in kind were made from them, to meal and barley millers, even in later ages than those previously alluded to.

It must, therefore, be matter of regret that these important aids to ancient history and the manners of our forefathers are so generally beyond our reach, and that so little attention has been paid to their preservation; for even when found mentioned in family charters and national records, the exact locality of a vast number of them are altogether unknown, either from their utter extinction, or the orthographical change which the names have undergone. It is from a belief that etymons ought to be drawn from the oldest spellings, that a preference is here given to the meaning implied by *Edale* or *Adel*, as will be given throughout the volume, to that implied by the most ancient forms of orthography, so far as can be ascertained.

In the times of Romanism, the Church of Edzell was attached to the Archiepiscopal see of St. Andrews, and rated at the small sum of twelve marks. It was also one of several dependencies whose revenues were appropriated for the repair of the parent Cathedral after its conflagration in Bishop Landel's time;* but oddly enough, no mention is made of it in the Register of Ministers for 1567, although in that of the Readers for 1572, an Andro Spens appears to have held the important office of "exhorter," with the trifling annual stipend of about thirteen shillings and fourpence sterling.†

Like other districts which have never been dignified as the seat of a Cathedral, Abbey, or Priory, the ecclesiastical history of Edzell is meagre and uninteresting; and in these circumstances we are compelled, like the drowning man, to grasp even at a straw, if we think it can afford any advantage. Still, we have great fears that our aims may be frustrated. Be that as it may, the earliest parson of whom any trace exists bore the name of Elwyno, and had been, doubtless, a man of consideration in his day, since he witnessed the grant of Warnabalde, ancestor of the Earls of Glencairn, and his wife, Rechenda, the daughter and heiress of Humphrey de Berkeley, when they gifted their Mearns-shire estates to the Abbey of Arbroath.‡

Beyond the solitary instance of 1378, already mentioned, we are not aware that the revenues of the church were ever applied either for the support of monasteries or altarges; and the name of the Saint to whom it was inscribed is lost in the dubious mists of fable. Perhaps, however, from a confused tradition regarding a bell belonging to the church, called the bell of St. Lawrence, it is probable that that patient and worthy martyr, whose feast is on the 10th of August, had been the parish favourite. This instrument is said to have been specially rung by the Durays of Durayhill, who, as will be fully shewn in a subsequent part of this volume, were the hereditary doomsters, or justiciaries, of the lairds of Edzell; and although it was only brought to light, after a long lapse of years, by being accidentally dragged from the bottom of the old well of Durayhill in the early part of the present century, and lay in the old

* (A.D. 1378)—Lyon's History of St. Andrews, vol. ii, p. 312.

† Maitland Club Publication, 4to, Edin. 1830.

‡ (A.D. 1288.)—Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 193.

church down to the period of its demolition, it has since been completely lost sight of.

The loss of this, which was, perhaps, the oldest parochial relic, is much to be regretted, since all description proves it to have been an instrument of the most primitive manufacture, and might suggest a comparison with some of those described and figured in Dr. Wilson's admirable work on the "*Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*."* It was made of common sheet iron, of a quadrangular form, about a foot high, and correspondingly wide, and narrowing a little towards the top. The handle was placed horizontally on the side, and passing through the bell, formed the axle of the clapper, which was suspended by an S. The clapper was of wrought iron, shaped somewhat like a purring iron, and is said to have been newer than the bell; but no person remembers to have seen any trace of writing upon it.

Bells were used by the first christian settlers, and were ever objects of great veneration, and as duly consecrated as the church and pastor. St. Columbkil had one on the famous island of Ioua (commonly, but erroneously, written *Iona*); and St. Ternan had one presented to him by Pope Gregory the Great, which was deposited beside his relics, and held in high veneration at the kirk of Banchory Ternan, where he was buried. Prior to the fashion of administering oaths over the Holy Bible, bells were used instead; and instances are on record of people holding them as evidences of right and title to landed property. This was the case with the bell of St. Meddan of Airlie. It was resigned by its hereditary possessor, the Curate, to Sir John Ogilvy, who gifted it to his lady, in virtue of which she had possession of a house and toft near the kirk of Luntrathen, and had her infestment completed, by being shut up in a house, and receiving the feudal symbols of earth and stone.† They were also believed to work many miracles, and, amongst others, to frighten away the devil from the souls of departed christians,—hence the origin of the "warning of the passing bell" at funerals—a practice which, though one of the oldest and most revered rites of the Roman Church, is yet used in some presbyterian districts, and dealt out on the same pecuniary considerations as it was by our superstitious forefathers.

* Edin., 1851, p. 652, *et sub*.

† (A.D. 1447)—Spalding Club Miscel., vol. iv., pp. 117, 118.

We do not infer, however, although the "toll of the dead bell" is still occasionally heard in Edzell and many neighbouring parishes, that the inhabitants place any faith in the old belief; but, simply, retain the custom from respect to the worthy people who have gone before them; indeed, the practice is now so rare, that, when attempted to be used, the sexton frequently rings "a merry peal," instead of the deep, solemn, and imposing knell, which is so well calculated to strike fear and alarm to the hearts of most listeners. The old kirkyard of Edzell—whither it was customary for the sexton at no distant date to precede almost all funeral processions, tolling the unharmonious badge of his sad unenviable office—has now a far more solitary situation than it had in days of yore. It occupies the same site, it is true, by the side of the West Water, but the church is removed, the huge castle is roofless and untenanted, and the busy thriving village fully a mile distant. The abrupt and varied heights of Dunlappie, and the isolated hill of Drummorie, raise their protecting and shadowy crests on the north-east and south-west; but solitude reigns around, and barring the thoughtful tread of the curious pilgrim, or the hasty step of the busy merchantman—the ancient lords of the district, and "the rude forefathers of the hamlet"—enjoy an undisturbed and unvaried repose, well befitting the solemnity and awfulness of death. It was different in old times: the clack of the busy mill, and the undisguised laugh of innocent childhood, reverberated within a few paces, and the sweet-scented honeysuckle twined around the door of the miller's cottage, and the healthy vegetable was fostered with all the skill and care then known near the south-west corner of Stop-bridge, where the foundations of long-since inhabited tenements, and pieces of mill gear, are frequently found.

Drummorie Hill, of late crowned with luxuriant crops of whins and broom, now bearing its hundreds of bolls of yellow corn, could also boast of many tenanted cottages and smiling gardens in old times; and on the southern extremity, on a small isolated hillock, which had been evidently surrounded by a moat, the original castle of Edzell is presumed to have stood. The spot is still called "the castle hillock," and old parishioners have been told by their fathers, that they remembered of two

arched chambers being erased from it, and a common blue bottle, of antique manufacture, found in the crevices, filled with wine or other liquid.

This castle, according to tradition, was originally demolished by the ancient lords of Dunlappie,* who, having been engaged in the wars of the Crusades, found, on their return home, that the lords of Edzell had taken forcible possession of their castle, which stood on a bank immediately opposite, and commencing a desperate reprisal, they demolished the castle, and pillaged and burned the lands of their adversary. Such is the story—whether true or false cannot now be said. But the antiquity of the lands of Dunlappie are beyond all dispute, and, at the time referred to, were in the hands of the great family of Abernethy;† but, so far as we are aware, no trace of their castle of Poolbrigst (for so their residence was called) has ever been discovered, and the incident, and name of the castle, are both unknown in history.

It is, therefore, apparent, since traces of so many old dwellings have been found, not only on Drummore hill, but also on that of Edzell, and in the still more immediate vicinity of the burial place, that in old times the kirk had been rather conveniently placed for the great mass of the people—particularly since the east side of the parish was provided with a chapel at Dalbog. But, as the feudal importance of the great house of Edzell declined, the occupation of its numerous retainers, who inhabited those dwellings, necessarily ceased, and several small pendicles being thrown together, the stream of population naturally sought a place more convenient for mutual labour, and more accessible to merchants and markets; and the hillside becoming deserted, and the plain peopled, the village of Slateford gradually increased until it assumed its present important and burgh-like form, although the church was not removed thither until the late period of 1818, when the old one was sacrificed to furnish a few crazy materials to aid in its erection.

The old kirk and kirkyard were within the same delta as the

* *Dun-lapach*, i. e. "miry hillocks."—(*Dun* also means "a fort.")

† Duncan, the fifth Earl of Fife, and fourth in descent from the murderer of Macbeth, exchanged Dunloppe, and Balmadethy in Fearn, with Orem, the son of Hew of Abernethy, for the lands of Balberny, in Fife, in Malcolm IV's time.—*Douglas' Peerage*.

‡ The Gael. *Puill-bruach* (from its being so descriptive of the site of the reputed castle) is perhaps, the true etymology of "Poolbrige," and means "a bank or precipice in a bog."

original castle, and, down to a late period, were difficult and often of dangerous access; for, before the Stop-bridge was thrown over the so-called old channel of the West Water, the inhabitants of the village and other eastern parts had to ford the den on stepping-stones and ladders, and as this mode of transit was inefficient when the river was swollen, there was frequently no sermon, because of "the watters being in spaitt."* In short, the kirk latterly assumed altogether a very comfortless aspect, the snow and rain found easy access through the roof, and the floor being some inches lower than the surrounding ground, the area was frequently inundated.

But of this crazy fane, where so many of the proud lords of Edzell and their humble retainers bowed the knee, there is, as before intimated, no prominent trace. The not inelegant archway, which separated the kirk from the burial aisle, is built up, and the old area used as a place of common sepulture; and, within these few years, the bell has been transferred to the new kirk, and the belfrey allowed to fall into decay. Although an object of no great antiquity, still the presence of the bell added considerably to the romantic aspect of the place, and to the convenience of the few scattered inhabitants who peopled the south-west side of the parish; and having, together with a hand bell, been made from a mould constructed by an ingenious villager, and cast in the woods of Edzell by a band of tinkers, who had made good their quarters for a time, it may be said to possess a more than ordinary local interest. It now lies as lumber about the new church, and may soon, alike with its unfortunate predecessor of St. Lawrence, be altogether lost sight of.†

It is also worthy of notice that the old kirk was perhaps amongst the earliest *slated* of our landward churches; for so early as 1641, we are not only informed that a payment was made to "the sclaitter for poynting the kirke," but have a glimpse at the extras or overpayments of the time, in the curious item of "mair of drink siluer to hys boy, 6d."

Nothing is known of the state of religion in Edzell prior to the date of the parochial register, which begins on the third of

* *Par. Reg.*, Nov. 12, 1648, *et sub.*

† The kirk bell bears:—"THE . PARISH . OF . EDZELL . MR. . JAMES . THOMSON . MINR. . MADE . AT . SCLAT . FORD . BY . IONN . EASTON . 1726." On the hand bell:—"EDZELL . PARISH . 10A . EASTON . FECIT . 1726." The bell on the new kirk bears the date of 1819.

January, 1641; but there is no reason to believe that "the new doctrine" was introduced earlier here than in other parts of the shire. It might be curious to know, though we are not aware if it could be ascertained correctly, whether Edzell was among those parishes which were supplied by one of the "manie popishe preistis, unabill and of wicked life," whose conduct was winked at by the Superintendent Erskine;* but, it is certain that Sir David of Edzell, who succeeded his father in 1558, as well as his excellent brother, Lord Menmuir, espoused the reformed doctrines, and that they were religiously cherished by all their successors. Indeed, so attached was the grandfather of the last laird to the cause of the Covenant, that he raised a regiment in support of it, which was known by his own name;† and, in the Parliament of 1662, the Earl of Middleton fined him in the large sum of three thousand pounds. Kirk-sessions were prohibited from being held in the parish from the time of "the blessed restoratioun" until 1662, and on being resumed by order of the Bishop and Presbytery, Mr. Dempster "begood the administration of discipline," and from that time matters moved smoothly on, till the abolition of episcopacy at the beginning of last century, when, under the banner of "the last laird," the opposition was carried to a higher pitch than, perhaps, in any neighbouring district.

It is true that the Earl of Southesk's factor forced the adjoining parishioners of Stracathro, under pain of being carried to the Pretender's camp at Perth, to meet him "at the head of eighty men under arms, with beating drums, and flying colours," and to join with him in a day of humiliation and prayer, "for success to the Pretender's army,"‡ but it does not appear that so forcible means were employed there against the introduction of the presbyterian minister, as at Edzell. Both by fair and foul means, David Lindsay exerted himself to the very utmost in his power for the maintenance and propagation of his cause, and although prohibited by the Lords of Justiciary from the use of the church, and forbidden to preach in the parish, the minister, who was a namesake of the laird's, was encouraged

* Booke of the Universall Kirk of Scotland.—Bann. Club, p. 25.

† "The minister told from the pulpit that he was appoynted by the presbytery to attend the lord of Egill's regiment for one month."—*Menmuir Par. Reg.*, Aug. 11, 1650.

‡ *Stracathro Par. Reg.*, Nov. 2, 1715.

and protected by him in every possible manner, and openly taught his revolutionary principles—"prayed for the popish pretender as King of those realms," and "preached in the great hall of Edzell" to assembled multitudes. In this manner they not only held exhortations on Sabbaths, but took the management of all parochial business as "the Kirk-session of Edzell"—relieved the poor of the parish, and elected a schoolmaster—and until active measures were taken by Government for the minister's removal, successfully maintained their position against all and sundry.

In this state of matters, on the 26th of August, 1714, the Presbytery ordained the Rev. Mr. Gray as Mr. Lindsay's successor, and it could scarcely be supposed that one of so bold and impetuous a temperament as the laird would quietly submit to have his power set aside, and the important adjunct of patron of the parish summarily wrested out of his hands. It was, indeed, a fitting opportunity for a display of his determined character; and, although aware that ere long he would require to bid the lands of his sires adieu for ever, he resolved to support his feudal title in all its bearings, so long as he held possession. Accordingly, on the Sabbath after Mr. Gray's ordination, which the Presbytery found necessary, for safety's sake, to conduct at Brechin, "the doors of the church were shut [against him] by order of the laird," and, for want of better accommodation, he preached his first sermon in the open air.

For some reason or other not specified, but perhaps from the laird's absence from the parish, Mr. Gray had admission to the church on the two following Sundays, but on the third and fourth thereafter, he and a Mr. Johnston were severally excluded, together with their followers, "whom they had brought with them from Brechin," all of whom "were most inhumanly and barbarously treated" by the Jacobites. None abashed, however, the presbyterians persevered in maintaining their ground; but on the third of October the crisis was reached, and Mr. Gray and party had no sooner arrived at the church, than they were violently assaulted by a band of men and women, under the laird's directions, who beat and maltreated them in every conceivable way, by cutting their clothes, and stabbing and beating them with "durks, and stones, and rungs," and forcing them to wade to and

fro in the adjoining river, until some of them were nearly killed.* It was only then that Mr. Gray abandoned his post, and claimed protection from the civil authorities, and until the following January, he did not reappear in the parish; but matters being then amicably settled, he resumed his labours in peace, and the Episcopalians delivered over to him the "communion vessells and vestments," which they had all along retained and made use of. During the disturbance of "forty-five," however, matters were otherwise conducted, for then the kirk-session were declared to have acted an exemplary part "in the late unnatural rebellion;" and, with the exception of the dissent which occurred here, in common with that in most other parts of the kingdom in 1843, the parishioners may be said, ever since the notorious "rabble" of 1714, to have moved quietly on "in the noiseless tenor of their way."

None of the clergymen or schoolmasters, so far as we are aware, were famous for anything beyond their immediate sphere of duties. They seem to have been good useful men in their time, with the exception of one "heartless pedagogue who belonged to the town of Cromarty." When scarcely a year in office he was "detected privately in the night tyme treacherously stealing of a pt of our Sessione records wherein was contained baptisms and marriges,"† and, fearing the worst, he clandestinely departed, and was never again seen in the district. But of all his successors, the name of Mr. Bonnyman, who flourished towards the close of last century, lives most vividly in the minds of the parishioners.

Though best remembered in the rather unenviable character of a miser, to which, if tales are true, he had a pretty legitimate claim, he had also the reputation of being a good scholar, and prior to his settlement at Edzell, was tutor in the noble family of Kintore. Loath to expend money on fire to cook his food, or to warm himself in all but the severest frosts of winter, he nightly lurked about the blazing hearths of the villagers, and went daily from house to house with his "brose cap" under his arm, and made choice of the "broo" of the "fattest kail pot" to slake his scanty supply of meal!‡ He was

* See APPENDIX, No. I. † *Parish Reg.* 1706.

‡ Brose is "a kind of pottage made by pouring water or broth on meal, which is stirred in while the liquid is boiling."—*Jamieson's Scot. Dict. in voce.*

a big gruff man, and when in full Sunday habit, sported "a three-nookit business," or sort of cocked hat, but when on his brose-making excursions he wore a broad blue bonnet with scarlet brim, an old-fashioned drab great coat thrown loosely over his shoulders, and fastened at the neck with a big buckle—presenting altogether more the appearance of a sturdy beggar than the learned instructor of the parish, or the possessor, as he was in reality, of some two or three thousand pounds.

As his contemporary, the minister, also gained a provincial notoriety, it will, perhaps, excuse our noticing him. This arose, however, not certainly from the penuriousness of his habits, but from the awful and lamentable manner in which he is reported to have closed his career. It is admitted, on all hands, that his learning was only surpassed by his eloquence as a preacher, and by his gentlemanly bearing and generosity of heart, for his ear was ever open to the tale of distress, and his hand ever ready to afford relief. Unlike Mr. Bonnyman, he was an enthusiastic gambler, and from his expertness in that respect, and his kindly disposition, he was the courted of surrounding landlords, and possessed more influence, perhaps, than any of his brethren; but, with all these accomplishments, and admirable mental qualities, the strange infatuation of his nature, and the circumstances of his death, teach a sad lesson of human frailty, and its certain consequences.

Dining at a neighbouring mansion with a large party of gentlemen on one occasion, the game of hazard, as usual, was their after dinner amusement, and the stakes being heavy, and the minister fortunate, the fairness of his play was questioned, and an angry altercation ensuing, one of the losing party, in the heat of passion, lifted a candlestick from the table and felled the minister to the floor. From the injuries thus inflicted, he is said to have almost immediately expired; but the matter being quietly managed, the circumstance ultimately became forgotten, and all the parties concerned, and a generation or two to boot, have now gone to their reckoning. Still, the generous character of the minister, and the sad nature of his death, live in the memories of the children of those to whom his goodness of heart and other amiable qualities were known.

SECTION II.

" See yonder hallow'd fane!—the pious work
Of names once famed, now dubious or forgot,
And buried midst the wreck of things which were :
There lie interr'd the more illustrious dead.

Strange things, the neighbours say, have happen'd here:
Wild shrieks have issued from the hollow tombs :
Dead men have come again, and walk'd about ;
And the great bell has toll'd, unring, untouch'd."

BLAIR'S GRAVE.

THE burial vault of the great barons of Edzell, which was attached to the south side of the kirk, forming the old and important adjunct of an aisle, is still entire. It is a plain, unostentatious mausoleum, rather incompatible with the wealth and power of its noble founder; but in excellent keeping with his solemn and benign character. It was erected about the middle of the sixteenth century, by David Lindsay of Edzell, who became the ninth Earl of Crawford; and the kirk had, perhaps, been rebuilt and slated at the same time.

The roof of the vault is covered with grey slates, and has recently been repaired, and the big window on the south is guarded by heavy staunchels of iron, which, alike with the fine grated door at Invermark castle, had probably been dug from native mines, and smelted in the locality. Earl David was buried here at his own request, as were his first spouse, Janet Gray (who pre-deceased him, in 1549), and the most of their successors. The aisle is entered by a small door on the north, and a flight of steps, hewn of the soft red sandstone of the locality, leads to the gloomy chamber. Internally, the vault is only about nine feet square, and so crowded with rubbish and bones, that no adequate idea can be had of its real height. The sides and roof are of solid ashler, constructed with great care, and the centre of the roof terminates in the mortuary semblance of four skulls, cut by a bold and vigorous chisel. An iron ring is fixed in the midst of these for suspending the lamp, which was believed to light the souls of the departed through the unknown maze to eternal bliss. But of all the powerful personages here interred, no memorial exists to perpetuate their individual characters, or even their names. It is true, that a

large slab, having a goodly sculpture of the Lindsay and Abernethy arms, and a few stray words and letters, was thrown from the aisle at the destruction of the old kirk, and now lies broken in several pieces in the grave yard; and, so far as can be judged from the style of its carving—for it is very much mutilated and effaced—it may be supposed to belong to about the beginning of the seventeenth century.*

One tradition is only known regarding the family of Edzell and this vault; and, as a matter of course, it is fraught with much of the romance and improbability incident to the dreamings of a remote age. Divested, however, of its accustomed minuteness, tradition has failed to preserve the name of the heroine, but uniformly affirms that she was buried in a trance, and so loaded with rich and valuable jewellery, that the sexton's avariciousness became excited to the highest pitch, and, bent on obtaining the treasure at all hazards, he stole under night to her lonely sanctuary, and soon succeeded in putting himself in possession of the whole, except the massive rings which girded her swollen fingers. These he eyed with great admiration, and having failed to gain them by ordinary means, the idea of amputation flashed across his relentless heart, and instantly the fatal blade of his large knife made a deep unhallowed incision. A slight movement of the body, and the faint exclamation of "Alas!" soon staggered his valour—the knife dropped from his guilty hand—he trembled from head to foot, and fell senseless on the cold, damp floor, amidst crazy trestles and musty bones!

Meanwhile, the lady disentangling herself from her shroud, snatched the glimmering taper in one hand, and, raising her unexpected deliverer with the other, led him forth of the vault. Restored to consciousness, he craved mercy on bended knees; and although the lady assured him of a handsome reward from her husband if he would accompany her to the castle, he anxiously prayed that he might be allowed to fly from his native land; and she, with a heart grateful for the restoration of life, kindly per-

* Besides sculptures of the family arms, the stone bears the initials "A. L." on the sinister side, and "W. . . ." on the dexter. A perpendicular line, which runs about two-thirds down the middle, bears these words:—" . . . VMINE . TWO . LYNE."

The following are the only other words and letters decipherable:—

"	HORI
IN . VITA : ET . IN
CHRISTVS
. . . NV
HÆC . IOANES . L
EE . GERMANVS . O
ORIS . ERGO . POSVI

mitted him to retain his sacrilegious spoil, and the wily sexton was never more heard of!

This romantic story will remind the reader of the extraordinary case of the lady's kinsman, Sir William Lindsay of Covington, who, under like circumstances, was laid out for dead; and, but that his young great grand-daughter observed "his beard to wagg," he might, alike with the lady of Edzell, instead of personally greeting the large assembly of relatives and friends who had met to attend his funeral, undergone the sad ordeal of premature burial.* Nor is it unworthy of notice, that cases of protracted slumber were not confined to the direct members of the great family of Lindsay, but were also common to some of them, who walked in humble life, it being scarcely twenty years since the grave closed on a poor female of the same celebrated name, called Euphemia, or, more familiarly, "*Sleepin' Effie Lindsay*." This singular creature belonged to the parish of Guthrie, but latterly resided in Cortachy, and, on various occasions, lay in a state of utter unconsciousness for a fortnight or more at a time. These soporific attacks were periodical in her case, and all attempts to arouse her from them were in vain; and after lying in that morbid condition for the long, and almost incredible period of six weeks, she expired, unconscious, it is believed, of her approaching end.

The ashes of a Major James Wood lie within the bounds of the same cemetery as those of the great lords of Edzell, and his history being intimately associated with the traditions of the locality, some notice of him may not be inaptly classed under this head. This well-known veteran (a cadet of the old house of Balbegno), resided at Invereskandy, and is popularly said to have been factor to the penultimate laird of Edzell. His old dwelling still stands, though now converted into a barn, and the thick walls and small windows, with cut lintels of rather superior workmanship, certainly bear some trace of the consequence of the place, and the status of its old occupant.

The Major is represented as a tall, robust, gruff person, equally hard of heart as of feature, and, were tradition to receive implicit credit, was destitute of all those qualities which ren-

* *Lives of the Lindsays*, by Lord Lindsay, vol. ii. p. 287. In all subsequent reference to this delightful work, it will be merely noticed as "*Lives*."

der one fellow-creature the cherished friend of another. Indeed, the factorship has been emphatically characterised as being more his pleasure, and the horrid vices of debauchery and seduction, the business of his every day life. It is needless to say that he was famed in the district, and looked upon as nothing short of a demon in human form, and the fine ford in the immediate neighbourhood of his house was only taken advantage of during his absence, or the hours of his repose. One sweet and guileless maiden, who unwarily crossed here when inviting some friends to her approaching marriage, was pounced upon by him in a lone dreary part of the muir, and after a severe struggle, succeeded in extricating herself from his grasp. Running towards the river, she sprung in her confusion from the high banks into a deep pool, and falling a victim to the rolling waters, was swept for ever from the earthly presence of her betrothed, and her sorrowing relatives.

Such are some of the current stories relative to the Major, who, like other mortals, came to his end ; but not rashly. Had he done so, romance and popular story would have been deprived of a favourite and fertile subject of sympathy and hatred, and the reputed awfulness of his deathbed, which is now proverbial, would not have been witnessed, the common belief, in the sad nature of which, may be gathered from the following, and only remembered stanza of a large poem composed on the occasion, by an almost unlettered local bard, who lived towards the close of last century :—

“ An’ when the Major was a-deein’,
The de’il cam like a corbie fleein’ ;
An’ o’er his bed head he did lour,
Speerin’s news, ye may be sure ! ”

In fact, it is popularly believed that the Major did not die, as implied by the common sense of the term, but was literally suffocated by having a quantity of *daich*, or dough, stuffed in his mouth to check his blasphemous ravings ! He was buried close to the north-west corner of the Lindsay vault, under a huge flag stone, on which a blank shield, and the illegible remains of an inscription still exist.

An incident equally characteristic of the credulity of the period is related concerning the translation of his body to the

grave, which, while the company rested on their way to the churchyard, became suddenly so very heavy, that it could not be carried further. In this singular dilemma, the minister had courage to crave the aid of Omnipotence, and fervently exclaimed:—"Lord! whoever was at the beginning of this, let him be at the end of it," when the corpse turned as marvellously light as it was before heavy!

Still, though the Major and his evil deeds were hid from mortal eyes, the parishoners were so prejudiced against the spot where he lay, and the very spokes which bore him thither, that none of them would allow their relations to be buried in the former, or carried on the latter. Mr. Bonnyman, the old eccentric schoolmaster already mentioned, is said to have been the first to break down this barrier of superstition and credulity, by giving strict orders, on his approaching dissolution, that his body should be carried on the rejected bearers, and laid in the same grave with the Major; and, excited by curiosity, when Mr. Bonnyman's grave was made, many persons went to view the huge bones of the dreaded veteran, and even believed, that amidst the clammy ashes of his once gigantic frame, they discovered remains of the very dough with which he is said to have been hurried out of existence!

Such are a few of the traditions regarding this dreaded son of Mars, which, if but half as true as reported, are quite revolting enough. Doubting the existence of so heartless a monster, except in the excitable minds of the superstitious, and desirous to find all positive trace of his life and transactions, we have made considerable enquiry, but have failed to learn anything of him until within the last ten years of his life. Happily for his reputation, however, we have fallen upon sô direct and opposite proofs of the engagements and doings of his life during that period, as compels us to believe that the demoniacal actions imputed to him are purely imaginary, and have probably been confounded with the well-known deeds of another, and certainly justly notorious *Major*, the celebrated *Weir* (who was contemporaneous with Wood), the account of whose "*Damnable Historie*" has been a source of considerable remuneration to unprincipled printers and flying stationers, ever since its first publication.

Though the discipline of the church was very lax at the period, and pecuniary donations had vast influence with her, it cannot possibly be believed, if the character of Wood was fraught even with a tithe of the ferocity with which the busy tongue of tradition has enshrouded it, that he either would have been invested with the responsible office of an elder of the parish, or been recognised as a witness to the baptism of several children of families of known respectability. Nor can it be presumed that the partner of his bosom could for a moment have tolerated such doings; for in her—whom, by the way, tradition never so much as once alludes to—we find, from the importance and nature of her gifts to “hallie kirke,” the beau ideal of a religious and God-fearing woman; while the Major’s provision for her after his decease, and his handsome mortification to the poor, shew a spirit of benignity and charity, as well as of conjugal love and affection, equal to the holiest of mankind. These malignant traditions concerning him, may, therefore, as a whole, be safely set down among those in which truth and fiction are strangely and unaccountably commingled.*

The old kirkyard of Edzell also contains the ashes of the parents, and other near relatives of one who, in the midst of incalculable disadvantages, rose to the highest eminence in the laborious study of natural history, and could number amongst his intimate friends no less celebrated men than Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. Solander, and Mr. Pennant. This was George Low, afterwards minister of Birsay and Harry, the industrious author of “Fauna Orcadensis,” and “Flora Orcadensis,” and translator of Torfæus’ History of Orkney. He was born in the village of Edzell, in March 1747.† His mother’s name was Coupar, and his father, a small crofter, held the humble appointment of kirk-officer, and died when George was only

* It appears from the Parish Register of Edzell, that on 15th of January, 1684, Major James Wood was elected an elder, and on the 5th of January, 1685, he was present at the baptism of a son of John Lyndsay in Dalbog. In July and August of the same year, his wife mortified a mortcloth to the church, and a table cloth for the communion table; and on the 6th of October, 1695, “A band was given in by Mr. John Lindsay, factor to the Laird of Edzell, for 200 hundreth and fiftie marks, mortified to the poore of Edzell, by Major James Wood, only payable after the decease of Margrat Jackson, his relick, by whom it is presented, and ane receipt given by the minister and session to the said Margrat Jackson, acknowledging hir right to the interest yrof for the forsaide soume, during hir lyfetyne, according to the Letter will of the defunct.”

† Erroneously printed 1746 in all biographies.—“1747, March 29; George Low, lawfull son of John Low, kirk-officer, and Isabel Coupar his spouse, baptized.”—*Par. Reg. of Edzell.*

thirteen years of age, leaving him and two daughters. The daughters were married to respectable villagers of Edzell, of the names of Thomson and Lindsay. The latter was an ingenious self-taught mechanic, who, to his trade of general merchant, added that of watch and clockmaker; and having had his shop robbed on an Edzell market night, the peculiarity of the tools with which he wrought led to the discovery of the felon, a notorious provincial highwayman, who, for this crime, was hanged on Balmashanner hill at Forfar, in 1785, and is said to have been the last person who suffered capital punishment by the decree of any Sheriff in Scotland.

Low began his studies at Aberdeen, and afterwards went to St. Andrews; and being taken to Orkney in 1766, by Mr. Alison, then minister at Holme, he became tutor to the family of Mr. Grahame, a wealthy merchant in Stromness, with whom he remained six years. While there, he studied assiduously for the ministry, and his divinity studies being incomplete, in order to prepare him for examination previous to license as a preacher, he received "lessons," as was then usual in such cases, from some of the ministers in the Presbytery.

On leaving the family of Mr. Grahame, he went to Shetland, where he preached in various parts for two years, during which time he became acquainted with Mr. Pennant, whom he accompanied on his celebrated Shetland tour. From his great botanical knowledge, he was of vast service to Mr. Pennant, through whose influence, Sir Lawrence Dundas, then patron of most of the churches of Orkney and Shetland, presented Mr. Low to that of Birsay and Harry, where he was settled on the 14th of December, 1774. Two years after, he married Helen, daughter of his former benefactor, "the learned Mr. Tyrie, of Sandwich;" but she died within sixteen months, after giving birth to a still born child. Her husband survived until the 18th of March, 1795, and dying at Birsay, was buried in the church, below the pulpit. A correspondent informs us that "he latterly accustomed himself to study in bed, which, on many occasions, was more like the dormitory of the dead than of the living."

In addition to the works above noticed, Mr. Low left a history of Orkney in manuscript, which fell into the hands of Mr. Alison of Holme, who gave it to Dr. Barry, by whom "it was

laid under heavy obligations in compiling his work ;" and although he was indebted to it for the greater part of the Appendix, in which he treats of the natural history of Orkney, Barry nowhere acknowledges his obligations to Mr. Low, whose manuscripts, it is believed, are still in existence.

As a preacher, Mr. Low was good, plain, and practical ; and although he had the misfortune to lose his eyesight five years before his death, his blindness, so far from disqualifying him from preaching, improved him very much. He dispensed the sacrament three times during his incumbency, and intended a little before his death to dispense it a fourth time. Dissent was unknown in the parish in his day ; and although there are now seven or eight different places of worship, the standard of religious knowledge and practice is said to have been higher then than at any subsequent period.*

Apart from the old parish kirk, the district of Edzell can boast of the remains of no fewer than three other ancient ecclesiastical establishments. These are Dalbog, Colmeallie, and Neudos.† The first is mentioned in the ancient *Taxatio*, and the printed *Retours* ; the second is merely recorded as a so-called Druidical circle, and as such, will be noticed in the subsequent Chapter ; and the third was a well-known separate parish down to a comparatively late period. Unlike its fellows, Neudos lies in the county of Kincardine, immediately north-east of the estate of The Burn, and part of it anciently belonged to the wide-spread and lucrative Regality of Torphichen, the principal preceptory of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who were superiors of lands throughout all the counties of Scotland, with the exception of the shires of Argyle, Bute, and Orkney.

The date of the grant of lands in the parish of Neudos to the knights is unknown ; but the parish was in the diocese of St. Andrews, and paid an annual to that cathedral of four marks Scots. The thick, closely cemented foundations of

* I am indebted for many of these interesting particulars regarding Mr. Low, to the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Traill, the present incumbent of Birsay and Harry, whose informant, Mr. George Louttit, late parochial schoolmaster, and now in his eighty-fifth year, "bears a kindly recollection of Mr. Low, to whom he was greatly indebted for the education he received."

† The affix *dos*, means "a bush or thicket ;" and patches of whins and broom are more than ordinarily luxuriant in the district at this day. We are not aware of the meaning of the prefix *New*.

the church, are still traceable in the kirkyard, which is yet used for interments; and the baptismal font, of an octagonal shape, is broken in twain, and used as grave marks. The latest notice of Neudos as an independent cure, occurs in the Register of Ministers for 1567, when, together with Fordoun and Fethirkairne, it was superintended by a clergyman named Peter Bounce, who had twenty-two pounds Scots for his labours, "with the support of the Priour of St. Androis." The precise time of its union with Edzell has not been ascertained; but it cannot be much short of two hundred years, since about that time the first notice occurs of the inhabitants attending the kirk of Edzell in this quaint, but satisfactory record:—"Given to Androw, the minister's man, for putting y^e people of Newdosk over the watter in a coble, 20s."*

In a field called the "Piper's-shed," nearly a mile east of the site of the old kirk, a copious fountain bears the name of "St. Dristan," or St. Drostan, to whom, in all likelihood, the kirk had been dedicated. Like all consecrated springs, this is said to have wrought numerous and wonderful miracles; and, from the waters proving so powerful a curative in all sorts of disease, the Esculapian craft felt their occupation so much endangered, that a few of the hardiest of them went to *poison* the fountain; but the neighbours hearing of their intention, fell upon them with sticks and stones, and killing the whole of them, had their carcasses buried around the well!

The farm adjoining the graveyard is called the Kirkton, and "the manse field" lies on the west side of the burn, within which an angular patch of land, of an acre in extent, is known as "the glebe," and was perhaps the Temple lands of old. It is certain, however, that this isolated acre is the only part of the Panmure estates which lie in the county of Kincardine, and is let to the farmer of Auchmull and Dooly, who sublets it to the tenant of Kirkton, in the midst of whose ground it is situate.

Though now known as Balfour,† the whole district was anciently designed "the thanedome of Neudos," or as more recently written, Newdoskis, or Newdosk, holding in part, as already seen, of the Knights of St. John. It acquired the name of "thanage," or "thanedome," from having been anciently under

* *Par. Reg.*, Jan. 1662.

† *Bal-fuar*, i. e. "cold town"—a not inapt name for the place.

the management of thanes, or king's stewards ; for, down to the year 1329, no family is mentioned in a proprietary relation to it ; but, of that date, King David gave a grant of it to Sir Alexander Lindsay of Crawford, the father of the first Lindsay of Glenesk, consequently—next to the lands of Little Pert, and the thanedom of Downie—Neudos was the first land held by that powerful family in the districts of Angus and Mearns.

The Chapelry of Dalbog* was on the east side of the parish, due west of Neudos. The time of its suppression is unknown ; and though no vestige of any house remains, the site of the place of worship is still called the " chapel kirk shed " by old people, and, in the memory of an aged informant, a fine well and hamlet of houses graced the spot. This field adjoins the hillock of Turnacloch, or " the knoll of stones," which was probably so named, from being topt in old times by a so-called Druidical circle, the last of the boulders of which were only removed in 1840. Some of them decorate a gravel mound behind the farm house ; and, on levelling the knoll on which they stood, a small sepulchral chamber was discovered, about four feet below the surface. The sides, ends, and bottom, were built of round ordinary sized whinstones, cemented with clay, and the top composed of large rude flags. It was situate on the sunny side of the knoll, within the range of the circle ; but was so filled with gravel, that although carefully searched, no relics were found. The building was about eighteen inches broad, and a foot high, and nearly five feet long ; and, at the south end, amidst the clammy earth which covered the bottom, an indentation was observed resembling that which would be caused by the pressure of a human head.

According to popular story, Conquhare, the famous thane of Angus, who was butchered in cold blood by his own grandson, Crathilinthus, the son of Finella, had his residence here ; but, whatever truth may be in the story of his murder, and Finella's well-known revenge on the person of King Kenneth, who had ordered Crathilinthus to be executed, there is no reason for believing that the unfortunate Conquhare abode in this quarter.

* Gael. *Dall-bog*, i. e. " the bog or miry valley." The " *Dulbdok* " in the Register of St. Andrews, and " *Dulbrothoc*," in that of Arbroath, are one and the same, and supposed to be *Dalbog*. The name is written " *Devilbog*," in an infeftment of 1518—(*Crawf. Case*, p. 158.)

He was one of the old Earls of Angus—a predecessor of the great Gilchrist—and their residence and heritage were in another and more southern part of the shire ; but, of the existence of a castle at Dalbog, there is not the least shadow of doubt, though, perhaps, it cannot lay claim to the antiquity popularly assigned to it.

A building, with very thick walls, lately erased at the east end of the farm house of the Wood of Dalbog, was known by the name of “ the castle,” and of this the “ Wicked Master ” took forcible possession in the time of Earl David of Edzell, and carried on his predatory and annihilating labours over the district and tenantry of Glenesk and neighbourhood. At an earlier period, too, the lands of Dalbog were a part of the terce of the Duchess of Montrose, of which Nicholas Fotheringham of Powry attempted to deprive her.* It was in this vicinity, also, that Sir David of Edzell had smelting furnaces erected ; and although all trace of these, and the enriching mineral which they were raised to purify, together with the castle and mains of Dalbog, are now gone, the house at the old mill, with the date 1681 (referring to the occupancy of John Lindsay, who long held the office of factor on the estates), is by no means an unimportant looking object.

SECTION III.

“ He is past, he is gone, like the blast of the wind,
And has left but the fame of his exploits behind ;
And now wild is the sorrow and deep is the wall,
As it sweeps from Glenesk to the far Wauchopdale,

Bright star of the morning, that beamed on the brow
Of our chief of ten thousand, O where art thou now ?
The sword of our fathers is cankered with rust,
And the race of Clan Lindsay is bowed to the dust.”

EARL CRAWFORD'S CORONACH.

THE properties of Edzell and Glenesk have been united together, as they are at present, from the earliest record ; and being both known by the common name of the latter, not only gave the surname of “ Glenesk ” to the most ancient owners, but also the title to many of their followers. This is perhaps the reason why the former district, which ultimately assumed the more important

* Acta Dominorum Concilii, Mar. 14, 1492, &c.

position of the two, is so seldom mentioned in comparison with the latter.

It is not, however, to be inferred, that although the ancient lords of Glenesk had their name from thence, that the family of Adzell, who survived in the lowland district till past the middle of the fifteenth century, were lords of the lands from which they assumed their cognomen—it being not an infrequent custom for the vassal to take his surname from the lands which he held under some great lord, as in the case of Rossy, of which the Norman family of Malherbe were lords and granted charters to their vassal, Rossy of that ilk.* In like manner the Adzells who lived at Edzell, were dependent on the lords of Glenesk—at least, they were so in the time of the Lindsays, and we have not found them mentioned as holding of the crown, and, in the capacity alluded to, “Johannes Adzell de eodem” is the last of several of the Crawford vassals of Angus-shire, who witnesses the laird of Dun’s confirmation of the third part of the lands of Baluely, which he granted to Alexander, the Earl’s natural son.† The latest, and only other notice of them with which we have met, is that of Richard in 1467,‡ on whose resignation the Earl of Crawford granted Edzell to his uncle, Sir Walter Lindsay of Beaufort, who, as will be more fully shewn in a subsequent page, was progenitor of all the Lindsays of Edzell, and of the noble house of Balcarres and Crawford.

There was, however, another set of noted residenters, who bore the odd name of Abbe, one of whom, John, the son of Malise, with consent of his son, Morgound, granted to the Abbots of Arbroath a right to cut and burn charcoal in their wood of “Edale,” so early as the year 1204.|| Little is known of the Abbes, and some believe that they were merely hereditary lay Abbots. Be this as it may, although the name was not peculiar to this district, it seems to have been extremely rare; and whether assumed from their office, or otherwise, they were of considerable importance in their time; for, contemporaneous with those of Edzell, a Douenaldus Abbe de Brechin also gifted the davoch of Balligilleground in Bolshan to the

* Reg. de Aberbrothoc, pp. 42, 163, &c. † (A.D. 1451)—Spalding Club Miscel., vol. iv. p. 5.

‡ Crawford Case, pp. 149-50.

|| Reg. Aberbrothoc, pp. 48, 49.

Arbroath Monastery; and a Maurice Abbe, who lived in the time of Gilchrist, the great Earl of Angus, is designed "de Abereloth," or Arbiriot.*

There is also good ground for believing that the ancient lords of Brechin had an interest in Glenesk, since, on the execution and forfeiture of David de Brechin for his connection with the conspiracy of Lord Soulis against the life of The Bruce, the lands of "Knocqy" were amongst those of Brechin's estates,† which were given by the king to his trusty friend, Sir David Barclay, the future lord of Brechin, and brother-in-law of the forfeited noble.‡ Knocqy lies in the immediate vicinity of Edzell castle, and is now known as *Knocknoy*, and represented, as said in the previous Section, by the large hillock beside the farm-yard of the Mains, and had, in all probability, been the moot hill of old, or the site of the baron's court. Within these twenty years, a large rude stone lay at the foot of it, which was said to have tumbled from the top, and had, doubtless, been the "Stannin' Stane" which was ever an important adjunct to the site of justice in the early ages.

But although the names of the lords of Brechin live in the imperishable page of the historian, those of the Adzells and Abbes are now, at least to the general reader, as if they had never been known. Even the credulous tongue of tradition is mute concerning them; and, if their deeds had ever been worthy of being preserved in the measured language of the rude minstrel, or their names associated with the hills and dales of the land of their adoption—sources not to be despised in the solution of historical and genealogical difficulties—they have all been faithless to their charge; and, but for the slender records of the grateful monks, the connection of the Abbes with the parish, and even their name, would have been lost for ever.

The most ancient proprietors hitherto spoken of in connection with Glenesk, were the family of Stirling;|| and, although Nisbet

* Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 29, &c.

† In contrast to *Drummors*, or the "great ridge," west of the castle, this height on the east, is called *Knocqy*, or the "little hill."

‡ Robertson's Index of Missing Charters, 1500—1613, Edin. 1798.

|| A family of the name of Stirling were proprietors of Laurieston in the Mearns, in 1243. and of that date Alexander de Strivella gave the prior and canons of St. Andrews, the Chapel of Laurenston, which was a dependency on the church of Ecclesgreig, and also bound himself and heirs to pay yearly a pound of wax, according to the market price of Montrose.—Reg. Prioratus S. Andree—Bann. Club, p. 280.

says that the Johannes de Stryvelin, miles, who swore fealty to Edward in 1296, was then lord of Glenesk, there is reason to believe that Nisbet had confounded the name with that of *de Glenesk*, which was the surname borne by the then proprietor.

Traces of the old family "de Glenesk" are, unfortunately, alike with those of the Abbes and Adzells, extremely meagre; but such as remain are found in equally authentic muniments, and point to a knightly, and, no doubt, warlike race, who inhabited the banks of the North Esk, at least a century prior to the powerful clan Lindsay. Nay, not so much from the fact of their assuming the surname of *Glenesk*, as from the independent part which they took in the important transactions of the times, it may be presumed that they were the original landowners, though the period of their first occupancy, or the cause of their receiving the lands, are alike veiled in the mists of antiquity. The first appearance of "John de Glenesch, miles," is in the honourable and trustworthy capacity of a witness to a charter to Walter de Rossey, about 1260;* and the same person, or his son, next occurs in the interesting year, 1289, as subscribing the celebrated letter of the community of Scotland to Edward, consenting to the marriage of his son Prince Henry with our Princess Margaret. Seven years later, while the English conqueror was carrying his conquest into the very core of the kingdom, and when "the spirit of Scotland had sunk into despondency," Sir John de Glenesk passed to Monros on the 10th of July, 1296 (where Edward had abode from the 7th), and swore fealty to that ambitious monarch; and again, in the parliament held at Berwick-on-Tweed on the 28th of August of the same year, Sir John de Glennysk, and Morgund de Glennesk, took the oaths, with others of the county of Forfar.†

These are the only authentic notices of the ancient lords of Glenesk; and the relation, if any, between Morgund and John, is unfortunately not stated. There is reason to believe, however, that he had been John's son, and from his bearing the odd christian name of "Morgund," which, it will be seen, was borne by the last recorded of the Abbes, the idea of supposing a relationship between the families of Abbe and Glenesk may not be altogether visionary; and, perhaps, in the absence of better

* Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 336.

† Ragman Rolls.—Bann. Club edit., pp. 93, 94, 126.

record, may be taken as indicative of the extinction of the Abbes, and an alliance with the lords de Glenesk.

The surname of Stirling, or Striuelyn, as it is written in the oldest deeds, had, in all probability, a territorial origin, and been assumed from the old town of that name. The family are ancient and famous, and the laird of Keir is reckoned the chief, and supposed to have descent from Walter de Striuelyn, who is a witness to Prince Henry's charter of the church of Sprowistoun to the Abbey of Kelso. It is probable that the Stirlings of Glenesk were of this stock, from the similarity of their armorial bearings; and, besides being lords of the well-known and extensive properties of Glenesk, they were also possessed of large estates in Inverness and Moray, and occasionally designed "de Moraviâ." They are so titled in Ragman Rolls, where several of the name are recorded as having sworn fealty to Edward at same time with "de Glenesk"—a circumstance which perhaps had led Nisbet to commit the error referred to.

The period of the death of the last Stirling of Glenesk is unknown; but he left two daughters, who succeeded as co-heiresses. One of them became the wife of Sir Alexander, third son of Sir David Lindsay of Crawford, and the other married Robert de Atholiâ, grandson of Angus, lord of the Isles. Lindsay succeeded to the Angus-shire portion of the Stirling estates, which consisted of Edzell, Glenesk, and Lethnot; and Atholiâ inherited the Inverness and Moray portion, and was ancestor, by a second marriage, of the ancient house of Struan-Robertson, which flourished in considerable pomp until about a century ago.

This mode of Lindsay's succession to Glenesk, though borne out by substantial evidence, is too much matter of fact, and partakes so little of the wonderful, that the insatiable craving for romance which characterised the minds of our ancestors, is exhibited in relation to it in some of its most striking features. Co-heiresses are unknown to tradition; and a son and only daughter are the substitutes. They were left orphans, and the former, small of stature and greatly deformed in body, was familiarly known by the diminutive cognomen of *Jackie Stirlin*'. Although physically defective, he enjoyed excellent health, and was neither impervious to the softer feelings of humanity, nor too unseemly for the kindly eyes of women, by one of whom,

the lovely daughter of a neighbouring baron, his offer of marriage had been accepted. This was altogether contrary to the wishes and expectations both of his sister and her lover, the gallant Sir Alexander Lindsay, and all remonstrance having failed to prevent the nuptials, they laid a deep and heartless scheme for his overthrow; and one evening, while taking an airing alone in the wooded defile, he was pounced upon by a masked assailant, and summarily despatched at a place still pointed out, a little to the north of the castle. He was buried in the family sepulchre, and many old people believe, that amongst the broken bones with which the vault is so profusely strewn, they have often beheld the *crooked* remains of the poor luckless knight!

It was under these circumstances, according to local story, that Lindsay married the daughter of Sir John Stirling, and fell heir to one of the largest districts in Angus, which, together with the importance of his own family connection, made him so greatly courted by his brother barons, that he had little leisure to reflect on the enormity of his crime. But, as a day of retribution comes sooner or later, his heart began latterly to fail, and, according to the custom of the period, he determined to atone for the foul deed of his youth by large gifts to the church and a pilgrimage to Palestine. With a view to his safety, he rebuilt the church of Finhaven, and gifted it to the cathedral of Brechin, where the Prebendary had a stall in the choir, and said mass daily for his safe conduct. These precautions were of little avail, however; the avenging angel pursued him wherever he went, and he breathed his last in a distant country, long ere he reached the devoted haven of his penitential sojourn.

Of the genealogy of the great Scottish family of LINDSAY, the celebrated Prior of Lochleven, remarks, with a caution which would have done credit to many writers of subsequent ages:—

“Of England come the Lyndysay.

Mare of thame I can-nocht say.”*

Notwithstanding this fine example of caution, future writers have invested the origin of this family with all the romance and improbability with which the early genealogies of other notables abound. These need not be dwelt upon; suffice it to say, that

* Wyntown's Cronykil, vol. ii, p. 68.

recent investigation shews them to have been a branch of the Norman house of Limesay, and that the first known in England was Randolph de Limesay, who came over with the Conqueror, to whom he was nephew, and on the extinction of his male line, the head of the Scottish Lindsays was selected to marry one of the co-heiresses. The name is not of territorial origin, as popularly believed, but assumed from the Norman "Lindsey," or "Limes-eye," and Lindsay and Limesay being identical, both imply "Isle of Limetrees," and, as shewn in the "Lives of the Lindsays," have, from earliest to latest record, had no fewer than eighty-six different spellings.*

But it was Walter de Lindsay, an Anglo-Norman, and witness and juror in the celebrated Inquest of Prince David into the possessions and rights of the See of Glasgow in 1116, who was the earliest of the name in Scotland. He is supposed to have settled in Cumbria; but it is not until the time of his grandson William, who was designed of Erceldoune and Luffness, and the first of the family who possessed the old property of Crawford-Lindsay in Clydesdale, that anything positive is known of them as Scottish landowners. He was one of the great magnates of the kingdom, and an hostage for the redemption of William the Lion after his capture by Henry II. of England. He was also High Justiciary of Lothian, and otherwise bore a prominent part in the leading transactions of the period; and from him, through Sir David Lindsay of Crawford, Sir Alexander (who married Catherine Stirling, the heiress of Glenesk, being a second son), was the tenth in lineal descent. By the heiress of Glenesk, he had Sir David, his successor, and Sir Alexander of Kinneff, the former of whom succeeded his father when only sixteen years of age; and on the death of his uncle, Sir James de Lindsay of Crawford, in 1397, without male issue, he became chief of the family, and heir to their extensive inheritances in Clydesdale and other places. He married the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Robert II., and had his estates augmented by his royal father-in-law, by a gift of the barony of Strathnairn in Inverness-shire; and on the 21st of April, 1398, he "was created Earl of Crawford, by solemn belting and investiture, in the parliament held at Perth that year—the Earldom

* *Lives*, vol. i, p. 2, &c.; and 413.

of Crawford being the third created since the extinction of the Celtic dynasty, that of Douglas having been the second, and Moray the first.”*

It is not our intention to dwell on the valorous actions which characterised the life of this celebrated nobleman—his overthrow of Lord Welles at the famous tournament at London Bridge, which took place on the feast of St. George, in 1395, in presence of King Richard and “Good” Queen Anne—and his dreadful onset with the natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch (his own near relative, through his aunt’s marriage with Robert de Atholiá), at Glenbrierachan, in the Stormont, when Ogilvy, the Sheriff of Angus, and his uterine brother, Leighton of Ulishaven, and many other Angus barons, were slain, and from which Sir David Lindsay and Sir Patrick Gray very narrowly escaped with their lives—are so beautifully and effectively described by his noble kinsman, that the reader is respectfully referred to Lord Lindsay’s “Lives” for these particulars, as well as for more important notices of the many great achievements of the other illustrious members of the family, which can only be briefly noticed in the following pages.

The brother of Sir David, or the first Earl of Crawford, and second son of Catherine Stirling, was “Yowng Alysawndyr the Lyndyssay,” who, along with his cousin, Sir Thomas Erskyne, and several others, attacked the English, under the Duke of Lancaster, near Queensferry, in the year 1384; and though greatly inferior in numbers, by surprising them almost immediately on leaving their ships, they completely routed them in the manner thus quaintly described by Wyntown:—

“ Bot thai, that had his cummyn sene,
 Tuk on thame the flycht bedene,
 And til the se thame sped in hy.
 Bot Schyr Thomas sá hástly
 Come on, and swá thame turnyd agayne,
 That a gret part of thame war slayue.
 Sum tane, and sum drownyd ware :
 Few gat til thare schyppis thare.
 Welle fourty hangyd on a rápe,
 Swá yharnyd thai for ethchépe ;
 Bot áne, that wes in-til a bate,
 Sá dowtand wes in that debate,

* Lives, vol. i, p. 97.

The cabil rápe he strak in twá,
 And gert them til the grownd than gá.
 And qwhen the flud wes out, men fand
 Báthe men and armowris wndyr sand
 And thai, that than ethchápyd war,
 Til thare schippis made thaim to fare,
 And pressyd noucht mare for to tak land,
 Qwhil that the Duk wes there bydand.”*

Sir Alexander was designed from the lands of Kinneff, in the Mearns; and had, perhaps, resided in one or other of the numerous strongholds of which that interesting and romantic, but dangerous and inhospitable coast, could at one time boast. Along with his brother, the future Earl, he also swelled the camp of “the lightsome Lindsays,” who joined the banner of their chief, Sir James, at the famous engagement of Otterburn, against the combined forces of the Percies and the Mowbrays; and, although their chief unwarily fell into the hands of the enemy, and was held prisoner for a time, Sir David of Glenesk, and his brother, returned in safety, and the latter, many years afterwards, fell at the luckless battle of Verneuil.

Prior to his death in 1407, the first Earl gave the lands or thanedom of Neudos, together with an annual pension of forty marks out of the customs of the burgh of Montrose, to his second son David, who also held the baronies of the Aird and Strathnairn, in Inverness-shire, which, at a later period, were possessed by Sir Walter, younger brother of Earl Beattie. Beyond all others of his clan, Sir Walter was perhaps the most avaricious, and, at the same time, lacked nothing of the tyranny and oppression which characterised some of his more notorious relatives. Having had the sole management of his nephew, Earl David, from boyhood, he succeeded in consummating his long cherished desire of changing his residence in Inverness for one in his native county, by excambing his northern estates with the Earl, for the barony of Ferne, to which were afterwards added, first the mill and lands of Invereskandye,† and next the lands of Edzell and Knocknoy,‡ the former of which were possessed by vassals of the names of

* Wyntown's Cron., vol. ii, p. 320-21.

† *Dye* (Brit.) is said to be the old name of the West Water, and is synon. with the Gael. *dubh*, “black;” but *De* (Brit.) which denotes “rapidity of motion,” is perhaps more descriptive of this river—hence, from these lands lying at the mouth or confluence of the rivers North *Esk* and *Dye*, they are named *Inver-esk-an-dye*.

‡ (A.D. 1496-1497)—*Crawford Case*, pp. 149-50, &c.

Annandale and Nuthrie; and the latter, as previously intimated, by the Adzells; and the property of Fasky and Balfour, lying close to Edzell, Sir Walter added these to his already extensive domains, by purchase from George Lesley Lord Rothes, in the year 1471.*

The danger to which Sir Walter was subjected in a quarter so distant from those of his clansmen, was the real or feigned plea which incited him to the change of his abode—a state of matters which his own obdurate and aggrandising spirit tended little to improve; and ere he had resided long in the shire, the disagreeable and tyrannising features of his character were prominently displayed. Once in possession of the favour and confidence of his illustrious nephew, backed in all by his own mother, the notorious Countess Marjory, he was soon an extensive and influential landowner; and gaining the ascendancy over the person and power of his cousin, the chief of the Ogilvys, he found ample opportunity for the exercise of his supercilious talents. The Sheriffship of Angus, of which Ogilvy was hereditary holder, was clandestinely wrested from him, and made the most of by Sir Walter, who, in addition to the large possessions already noticed, was at sametime lord of Panbride and Kinblethmont, over the former of which his summary exactments of cattle and horses for unpaid teinds, and the destruction of the fishings belonging to one Ramsay, gave rise to some discussion, and although found to be legally warranted in his spoliation, the matter is little calculated to give us a more favourable view of his nature.†

It is indeed difficult to say, in those days when “might was right,” which party was the real aggressor; but Sir Walter’s whole character displays a mind so prone to oppression and lording, that one is forced, in the absence of specified reasons, to believe, that whatever attacks were made upon him had been done to resent some injury or other. It was, perhaps, the resentment of some serious wrong which caused the laird of Drum (who was match for him both in daring and cruelty, for he not only basely mutilated his own chaplain, but also murdered the young laird of Philorth), to attack him in his castle “vnder the silence of nycht” at the head of sixty men “in fere of were

* *Crawford Case*, p. 150.

† (Mar. 3, 1471)—*Acta Auditorum*.

with bows and vther fensable wapins, on horse and fute." Sir Walter, who, though from no leniency on Drum's part, appears to have been more frightened than hurt on this occasion, succeeded in having him deprived of the hereditary Sheriffship of Aberdeenshire.*

Sir Walter's reign, however, drew to a close, and in due course, he was succeeded by his son, Sir David, who was the first of the family to assume the style and designation "of Edzell." Like his intolerant parent, he was not unknown at the bar of the Lords of Council, where, for sundry misdemeanours, he was frequently arraigned. Some of these offences consisted in his having lifted no less than fourteen "nolt" from the "bisshop of Aberdeneis tennentis of the Birse"†—his withholding a certain sum of money, and "a cop and a couer of siluer our gilt, and a salt fut of siluer," which Fotheringham of Powry "laid in wed" for Sir David to Bishop Thomas of Aberdeen. He was prosecuted at same time by his mother, Isabel of Levinston, for the "widow's terce," or her share out of the lands of Fasky, of which there is reason to believe he had attempted to deprive her.‡

Sir David's only son, Walter, a brave and courageous youth, died before his father, having fallen along with his kinsman, the Earl of Crawford, on the fatal field of Flodden. He was previously married, and though leaving four sons, Sir David, with a degree of injustice, not altogether at variance with the doings of his early life, attempted to change the succession from them to those of his own second marriage. James V., however, with that love of justice, and impartiality which so endeared him to his subjects, treated this attempt at disinheritance with just indignation, and declared Sir Walter's eldest son "the rychteous heritour," and added—in reference to the part which his father bore at Flodden—"we havand in mynd to helpe and favour thame that dyd gude service to our maist noble father." Sir David of Edzell died an aged man in 1528, and his sons, Alexander and David, by his second wife, Elizabeth Spens, were

* (Mar. 2, 1471)—Acta Auditorum. p. 20.—This laird of Drum's second wife was the daughter of a Fife gentleman, named Lindsay, who fled to the north in consequence of a slaughter he had committed.—*Inf. kindly communicated by A. F. Irvine, jr., Esq. of Drum.*

† Acta Auditorum, Feb. 17, 1489.

‡ Acta Dom. Concil., July 12, 1480.—Fasky was alienated from Edzell in Sir David's time, and given by James IV., in 1510, to the ex-Lord Bothwell, founder of the knightly house of Balmain.

respectively lairds of Vayne in Fearn, and Keithock near Brechin,* while, in virtue of the decision of Royalty, he was succeeded in the estate of Edzell and Glenesk by his grandson, who ultimately became the ninth Earl of Crawford.

The elevation of Edzell to the peerage did not arise from any failure in the male succession, for the eighth Earl had both a son and grandson; but it arose from the unnatural conduct of the former towards his venerable parent, to whom he acted the part of all but an absolute parricide. In possession of the fee of the earldom of Crawford, as future Earl, he had the barony of Glenesk assigned to him, and having all but independent sway, he exercised his power with the utmost unscrupulousness. He seized the castle of Dalbog by force; and, besides scouring the lands of his relatives and neighbours in much the same manner as the Rob Roy of a later period, it was found necessary to cite him before the king as the heartless besieger of his father's castles—as having imprisoned him in his own wards at Finhaven for the space of twelve successive weeks, and as having carried him to Brechin, and there confined him for fifteen days, during which he pillaged his coffers and seized his rents.

This was the second time the old Earl had appealed to the Crown for protection against his own son; and as “the Wicked Master” (for so he has been justly and emphatically dubbed by tradition), pleaded guilty to the charges preferred against him, his life was graciously spared; but “he and his posterity were solemnly excluded from the succession to the estates and honors of the house of Crawford, and were blotted out as if they had never existed.”† Of the future career of this desperate and unfortunate person, little has been preserved; but his last sad end favours the idea, that however great his penitence at the time of his merited deprivation, he had still persisted in his reckless and unprincipled conduct, since the ungarnished and emphatic record of his death bears, that “he was stuck by a souter of Dundee for taking a stoup of drink from him.”‡

This occurred in the year 1542, and his father pre-deceased him, a poor, broken-hearted, disappointed person. It was in this unprecedented and disagreeable state of matters that David of Edzell, unexpectedly became heir to the estates and titles of

* Lives, vol. i., p. 438, 445.

† (A.D. 1530-31)—Lives, vol. i, p. 195, &c.

‡ *Ibid*, vol. i, p. 197.

Crawford, which could only otherwise have occurred in default of male issue. As may be supposed, he entered on these with much opposition. David Lindsay, the son of the "Wicked Master," was yet a minor, and the chief of the clan Ogilvy having married his aunt, the castle of Finhaven was forcibly possessed by them in name of the minor whom they had taken under their charge, declaring him the rightful heir to the titles and estates. The regent, Mary of Guise, being apprised of this, immediately demanded the restoration of the castle to Edzell, upon the pain of treason; and the demand being ultimately complied with, the orphan son of the "Wicked Master" was taken from his aunt, and reared, for a time at least, under the eye of the worthy old Earl, who now resided betwixt his castles of Finhaven, Edzell, and Invermark.

Notwithstanding that he had a numerous family of his own, the Earl desired that the titles and honours should be restored to the rightful heir, whom he deemed the son of the "Wicked Master." He accordingly applied to Parliament, and having had his wishes confirmed by royal consent, he generously relinquished the titles and estates in his favour. This, however, was done with a fear, on the part of the Earl, which will be better imagined than expressed, when it is known that the wayward disposition of the "Wicked Master" had already evinced itself in the person of his son. Perhaps, it was partly from a hope to subdue this erratic and violent spirit that Earl David selected him as his successor, to the exclusion of his own family—if so, it was certainly a high and holy aim. At all events, it is certain that the young Master bound himself to resign all claim to the estates and honours, and pay a penalty of two thousand pounds, "gif," as the deed bears, he "put violent hands in the said Earl to his slaughter, dishonour, or down-putting, or commit exorbitant reif or spulzie of his landis-tenants, to the maist part of the rents thereof."*

Such a voluntary and disinterested display of kindliness as that exhibited by the Earl towards the son of the "Wicked Master," has few, if any, parallels, and to all minds possessed of ordinary feeling, would have been cherished with a life-long gratitude. The Master's marriage with Margaret Beaton in April, and the

* Lives, vol. i, p. 200, and 463, where the bond is printed in full.

circumstances attending the murder of her father, in the following month, had perhaps impressed the Earl with the notion, that the latter awful circumstance, in particular, might tend to soften the asperities of his disposition, and make him settle quietly down in life, and become an honourable and exemplary citizen of the world. But, the ink with which he signed the above deed of humble submission was scarcely dry, when, instead of retrieving the evils he had already accomplished, or shewing signs of gratitude for the dignified position which he had attained through the Earl's generosity, he almost immediately joined with his old friends the Ogilvys in "the spoilie" of the castle of his venerable benefactor at Finhaven. As already hinted, his father's nature had shewn itself in him some years before, when he harried the lands of Glenesk; but this the good Earl had forgiven and forgotten, and was pleased to rely on his promises for future obedience. In these, however, he was woefully disappointed; and although the young Master was declared to have forfeited all claim to the privileges conferred upon him, he, nevertheless, succeeded, as the tenth Earl of Crawford, to all the possessions of his benefactor, excepting those of Edzell, Glenesk, and Ferne: and thus the Earldom of Crawford passed, by stratagem, it may be said, from the house and family of Edzell.

David of Edzell, or the ninth Earl, was twice married—first to the Dowager Lady Lovat, a daughter of the house of Gray, and secondly to Catherine, daughter to Sir John Campbell of Lorn, niece to the second Earl of Argyle. His first wife died issueless; but his second, who survived him for the space of twenty years, had a family of five sons and two daughters. These were Sir David, his successor in Edzell; John, afterwards Lord Menmuir, and founder of the noble and illustrious line of Balcarres; the third was Sir Walter of Balgavies, whose remarkable career and death will be noticed subsequently; the fourth was James, the amiable protestant rector of Fettercairn, who died while on a mission to Geneva, and was celebrated by Andrew Melville in a beautiful elegy, written to his memory; and the fifth and last was Robert, proprietor of Balhall, in Menmuir. The daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, were the wives of the Earl of Athole, and of Patrick, third Lord Drummond.*

* Lives, vol i, pp. 327-28.

SECTION IV.

Ninian.—How I know you the towers of Edzell !

Waldave.—I have heard of them.

Ninian.—Then have you heard a tale,
Which when he tells the peasant shakes his head,
And shuns the mouldering and deserted walls.

MACDUFF'S CROSS, BY SIR W. SCOTT.

THE early life of Sir David of Edzell is a striking contrast to that of his later years. Like the erratic spirits already noticed, he had much of the hot-headed character of feudal times. It is not believed, however, that he ever condescended to harrie the fauld or extort black-mail from his vassals or the less powerful of his brother barons ; but his resentment of insult offered either to himself or clan, seems, in some instances, to have been satisfied only by the blood of the offender. This was pre-eminently the case in regard to the slaughter of the laird of Lundie, in which his brother of Balhall, and kinsmen of Balquhadlie and Keithock were concerned, and for which all of them had a remission in 1583. This affray, which ended so fatally, was not caused by the resentment of any injury which Lundie had inflicted on Edzell personally, but arose from his having taken part in the revenge of a real or supposed insult which Lundie had offered to his chief, the Earl of Crawford. It was so also in the quarrel betwixt his cousin of the Vayne, and the Bishop of the Isles, in which, too, from the sheer love of clanship, he took a leading part, right or wrong, as he did at the destruction of the Earl of Montrose's cruives at Morphie.*

The aggrieved parties were all men of considerable influence, and combined as one to curb the power of their haughty rival ; and, had Edzell been guided by the bent of his own wishes merely, his interference in these matters might have proved exceedingly disastrous, if not wholly inimical, to the interests of his house. Submission, even in its most modified form, could be ill brooked by him, and none, save his excellent brother, Lord Menmuir, durst suggest an abandonment of his reckless purposes. While residing at the Vayne, in the autumn of 1582, this great man, and affectionate brother, apprized Edzell by

* Lives, vol. i, p. 329, *et seq.*

letter of the storm that was fast encircling him ; and, although, as already seen, a mere follower, and one who had done nothing more than his opponents would if placed in the same position, he was supposed, as is generally the case in such circumstances, to have been a prime-mover in each and all of those affrays. "I would request you to be better avisit," said Lord Menmuir, in the admirable letter alluded to, "and to use counsel of your best friends. Consider how troublesome is the world, how easily oney man who is stronger nor ye at ane time may do you ane wrang, and how little justice there is in the country for repairing thereof. Therefore, I wald desire you above all things, to travail to live in peace and concord with all men, otherways your life and pairt of the world shall be very unpleasant, ever in fear, danger, and trouble, whereof the maist pairt of them who calls themselves your friends would be glad."*

This and a few similair admonitions had the salutary effect which Lord Menmuir so much desired ; and, on being once convinced of the unenviable position he held in other than the society of his own clansmen and relatives, it was easy to effect a reformation in the mind of one whose failing lay more in the resentment of the insults offered to his friends than to himself, particularly in a mind so expansive and generally well assorted as Edzell's ; for, with all the asperities which characterized his nature, "he had tastes and pursuits," as beautifully said by his elegant and impartial biographer, "which mingled with his more feudal characteristics in strange association ; he was learned and accomplished—the sword, the pen, and the pruning-hook, wero equally familiar to his hand ; he even anticipated the geologist's hammer, and had, at least, a taste for architecture and design."†

Examples of his qualifications in these varied acquirements exist in some shape or other. Enough has been said to prove his expertness as a swordsman ; and his proficiency in literature is alluded to in so unmistakeable language by the King on presenting him to the vacant office of a Lord of Session on his brother's resignation, as to sufficiently guarantee the certainty of his acquirement in that respect. His correspondence regarding the mines of Glenesk, which is fully brought under notice in Lord Lindsay's "Lives of the Lindsays,"‡ shews his aptitude in

* See Letter in "Lives," vol. I., p. 339.

† *Ibid.*, p. 339.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 342, *et sub.*

the study of mineralogy; while the extensive additions which he made to the work, so nobly begun by his father, in the extension of his old paternal messuage, is still apparent in the ruins of those gigantic and tasteful labours. It was he also who "rebuilt the garden-wall in a style of architectural decoration," as his noble kinsman justly says, "unparalleled in those days in Scotland,—the walls presenting the Lindsay fesse-chequée and stars of Glenesk, flanked by small brackets for statues, alternately with sculptures in *alto-relievo*, representing the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, the Seven Sciences, the planets, &c., in the allegorical style and manner of the followers of Niccola and Andrea Pisano in the fourteenth century."†

Nor were Sir David's energies wholly centred in the decoration of his own mansion. It was also his aim to advance the importance and interests of his tenantry to the utmost of his power, and, with this view, he planned a town at Edzell, with cross and market place,‡ and which, at a later period, was erected into a burgh of barony. Thither the tenantry of Edzell, Glenesk, and Lethnot, were bound to bring their dairy and other marketable produce on the monthly fair-day; and certain arrangements were entered into betwixt Edzell and the magistrates of Brechin, by which the stock reared by, and belonging to the tenantry of Edzell and Glenesk were admitted, custom free, to the great Trinity Muir Fair, of which the magistrates of Brechin are superiors. It was perhaps on occasion of this amicable arrangement that the laird of Edzell was admitted a freeman of the said burgh.¶ Weighing apparatus, stances, and other requisites for carrying out the object to its full extent, were erected at the laird's expense, and the market is said to have flourished for many years, with considerable success, even after the body of its spirited projector was laid in the tomb beside his kindred. "Auld Eagle's Market," as the August fair is locally called, is perhaps the echo of the laird's noble institution, for it is the oldest established of any fair now held at Edzell.

Such were the peaceful and praiseworthy labours which occupied the later years of Lord Edzell, by which title he had been

* Lives, vol. i, p. 342, *et sub* † *Ibid*, p. 316. ‡ *Ibid*, p. 348.

¶ (July 26, 1580).—Minutes of Bailie Court of Brechin, bound up with those of the Hammerman Incorporation, and in possession of that body. These are the oldest records belonging to the city of Brechin, and date from 2nd February, 1579.

known from his appointment as a Lord of Session; and being honoured with knighthood in 1581, he was farther dignified in the memorable 1603, when James ascended the throne of England, by being chosen a privy councillor. In the enjoyment of all the blessings which extensive learning, and judiciously exercised power could impart, and in the full confidence of an enlightened sovereign, the sun of prosperity seemed to shine in full glow upon him from all quarters, and he deemed nothing nigh that could in any way disturb his quiet. Unfortunately, however, in the midst of this tranquillity, his hopes were unexpectedly blighted, and the evening of his life harassed, from the occurrence of an untoward and sad event of riot and murder, committed by his eldest son, for which Lord Edzell was harassed all his life long.

Much of the daring and reckless character which marked the career of his ancestors on both sides, unfortunately fell to the lot of "Young Edzell," and almost the only points recorded of him have reference to some lawless transaction. The first outbreak in which he was concerned occurred in 1605, when he and young Wishart of Pittarrow, with their followers, met in the Saltron of Edinburgh, and fought a desperate battle, which continued from nine to eleven o'clock in the evening, in which "their wer sundrie hurt on both sydes, and ane Guthrie slaine, which was Pittarrow's man," and who, in the language of the quaint diarist Birrel, was "ane very prettie young man." For these disturbances, the aggressors, and, as was the custom of the period, their fathers also, had to stand trial, all of whom were fined, and warded to certain of the state castles. But the most unfortunate circumstance of young Edzell's life was his inadvertent slaughter of Lord Spynie, on the same ill-fated street. This affair ever preyed heavily on his mind, and, as in the Pittarrow case, was the source of much vexation and annoyance to his aged father. The circumstances relating to this luckless affair are interesting, and may be briefly told.

David, master of Crawford, and eldest son of the eleventh Earl, was, in every respect, a worthy disciple of his turbulent clansmen. Like the "Wicked Master," and his son, he scoured the country at the head of a band of armed desperadoes, at whose hands the life and property, even of their own immediate re-

latives, met with no feeling of regard; and in these lawless exhibitions he attacked and slew his kinsman, Sir Walter of Balgavies, on the 25th of October, 1605. The House of Edzell, of whom Sir Walter, as already shewn, was an immediate relative, determined on revenging the murder, and the "young laird," with his brother of Canterland, watched an opportunity for effecting that purpose. Accordingly, the brothers, with several of their clansmen, assembled in Edinburgh, and on the evening of the 5th of July, 1607, attacked the Master on his way up the High Street, while accompanied by his uncle, Lord Spynie, and Sir James Douglas. "It was dark so that 'they could not know ane be (from) the other,' and, in the rapid exchange of shots and sword-strokes, the three friends were all wounded, the Master and Lord Spynie so desperately, that though the former latterly recovered, 'Lord Spynie expired of his wounds eleven days thereafter.'"^{*}

Young Edzell fled from justice, and took up his abode in the castles of Auchmull, Invermark, and Shanno, all situate in Glenesk, and in points so difficult of access, particularly the last mentioned, that he contrived to evade his pursuers for a considerable period. His father was prohibited from sheltering him under heavy penalties, and it was on his being hunted from Auchmull and Invermark, that he erected the fortalice at Shanno which is known synonymously as the "Castle" and "Auldha," and of which some foundations still remain on the hill side to the west of the farm house.[†]

Accountable for the misdeeds of his son, Lord Edzell was so greatly harassed by the Earl of Crawford, anent the unfortunate murder of Spynie, that he found peace neither at home nor abroad. No less than five of his servants were "shot with pistols and hurt," and himself "not wundit only" as he quaintly observes, "but banishit from my virtue." It was under these painful circumstances that Lord Edzell found himself compelled to write the king "craving ever to be tryit of the unhappy slaughter of my umquhill lord of Spynie," but it was not until a second appeal was made to his majesty, setting forth the insecure

^{*} Lives, vol. i., p. 386.

[†] The ruins do not indicate a building of more than about twenty feet square, and are about four feet thick and nearly the same height. A large old fashioned brander or gridiron was found here about thirty years since.

state in which his person and property stood with his overbearing chief, that the trial of Edzell and his son of Canterland, "as suspected connivers at the death of Lord Spynie," was permitted. The trial was fixed for the 6th of September, 1607, but the accusers failing to appear, the matter lay dormant for many years, during which Lord Edzell died, and his son was so far restored to favour as to be again received into the church, from which he had been excommunicated.*

The murder of Spynie, however, was not allowed altogether to rest. In the year 1616 the matter was agitated anew by Spynie's eldest son and heir, who, acting for his sisters and other kindred, demanded a compensation for "the said slaughter." "Offeris," were accordingly made by Edzell "for himself and in name of his followeris" to Lord Spynie, for the purpose of "removing of all grudge, haitred, and malice conceavit and borne be them against him and his followeris for the onhappie and negligent and accidentarie slaughter" of the late Lord. As this document of "offeris" is in itself curious, and not only shews young Edzell's innocence of the matter, but the complete want of intention on his part, and that of his accomplices to murder Spynie, it is here given entire, and in its original orthography:—

"In the first, I attest the grytt god, quha knawis the secrettis of all hairtis that it was never my intentione to hairm that Noble man, moire nor I wald have done my awin hairt, Quhom at that tym and all tymis preceding I ever lovit and respeckit as my Wncle, and wald ever have rather hazzard my lyff, then have knawin him in any sik danger.

"Forder, I shall declair for myself and all thaire quha ar alyiff that war present therat, that We are innocent in thoct, word, and dead of that fact, and it is off veritie that the committer thairoff died, for that evil dead quhilk fell in his hand, wiolentlye, quhom I cold never patientlie behold, efter triall and confessions of sik onhappie creuelitie, quhilk sall be maid manifest and confirmed, be all testimonies requisit, under all hiest paynis.

Secondlie, for declaratione of my penitencie and the sorrowe of my hairt for that onnaturall and onhappie fact, I offer to the said Noble Lord, my Lord of Spynie and to his twa sisteris the sowme of Ten Thowsand Merks, and forder at the discretione of freindis, to be chosin equalie betuixt wa.

* Lord Edzell died on the 18th of January 1611, and his first wife, a daughter of the Earl of Crawford, and mother of all his family, predeceased him in 1679. His second wife was Dame Isabella Forbes, and a shield bearing the Lindsay and Forbes arms impaled, still ornamented the canopy of a door in the flower garden:—"1.4 gules, a fesse-chequee argent and azure, for *Lindsay*; 2.3, or, a lion rampant, gules, surmounted by a bendlet, sable, for *Abernethy*; impaling, azure, three bears' heads and necks argent, muzzled gules, for *Forbes*."—"S.D.L." on dexter, and "D.I.F." on sinister side of shield, with date "1604."

"Thridlie, Becaus the rwinit and rent estait of my Hous may permit no forder offer off grytter sowmes, I offer to do sik Honour and Homage to the said Noble Lord of Spynie his sisteris curators and froindis as thaye shall craue."

D. LYNDESAY.*

A contract was therefore entered into, by which Edzell agreed to give the heirs of the late Spynie, the lands of Garlobank, in the parish of Kirriemuir, in addition to the large sum of ten thousand marks, mentioned in the "offeris," and the affair was finally set at rest in 1617, by the royal grant of a remission for the murder, by "letters of Slains," under the Great Seal.

This unfortunate affair, as already noticed, constantly haunted poor Edzell, and the payment of the ten thousand marks in the "rwinit and rent estait" of his house, to which he so feelingly alludes, had doubtless been a barrier to any extensive improvements which he might wish to make on his property, and deterred him, if he had ever inclined, to follow in the wake of his tasteful parent. He lived, however, to a good old age; and besides being harassed by heartless kinsmen, had the misfortune to see his son and heir apparent laid in the tomb before him. He died himself in 1648, and was succeeded by his nephew, John of Canterland, who had retours of the lordship of Edzell and Glenesk in June of that year.

Soon after this John was elected an elder of the church and parish of Edzell, and, as noticed in the first Section, he was a staunch supporter of the covenant. He also held the important office of Sheriff of Angus-shire, which, together with his great influence as a landholder, rendered both himself and the district objects of notoriety in those disturbed times. Montrose having entered Angus in his flight before the Parliamentary faction, took refuge in Glenesk, which he harried and destroyed so extensively, that thenceforward the house of Edzell, which had partially overcome the extravagancies of previous lairds, received a blow from which it never recovered. Indeed, the laird found himself so embarrassed, that although the estate was worth ten thousand pounds a-year in 1630, in less than twenty years thereafter, he was necessitated to petition parliament "for exemption to contributing to the new levies then raised,—‘the rebel army,’ he says, ‘having been for a long time encamped

* From a paper in the handwriting of David Lyndesay, from the charter room at Glamis, hitherto unpublished, and kindly communicated by the Right Hon. Lord Lindsay.

and quartered upon the lands of Edzell and Glenesk, to the utter ruin and destruction of my lands and tenants, the whole corns being burnt in the barnyards, and the whole store of cattle and goods killed or driven away, whereby the hails lands of Glenesk,* were worth of yearly revenue nine thousand merks, have ever since been lying waste be reason the tenants have not been able to labour the same, in so much that the particular amount of my losses which was clearly instructit to the Committee of Common Burdens, did amount to the sum of fourscore thousand merks or thereby; besides great charges and expenses which I have hitherto been forced to sustain for maintaining three several garrisons for a long time to defend my tenants, whereof many, in their own defence, were most cruelly and barbarously killed, as likewise, ever since, a constant guard of forty men for defending my lands and tenants from the daily incursions of enemies and robbers."†

This spirited remonstrance had so far an effect. The laird was exempted from contributing to the assessment complained against; but neither received any part of a previous award of twenty thousand pounds, nor was protected against farther inroads; for, although the great Montrose had expiated his manifold ingenious and daring enterprises on the gibbet, there was still much, perhaps even more, cause for fear, since those high principles of loyalty which animated Montrose's conduct were spurned by his successors, and the government and army ruled by the baneful sceptre of selfishness and hypocrisy; The establishment of Episcopacy had been insisted on without success; Naseby had been fought and won by the daring Protector; the King had been basely sold by his faithless countrymen, and died on the scaffold; and the rightful heir to the throne had been defeated at Worcester; and fearing that the ancient symbols of the nation's independence would fall into the hands of the invaders, his friends had the regalia and sword of state secretly translated to the impregnable stronghold of Dunottar. It was accordingly in the year 1651, when the soldiers of the Commonwealth were dispatched in search of those precious symbols, that they made the parish of Edzell their rendezvous, during which the district was laid so effectually under their bann, that for the space of three or four weeks the

* "Not including Edzell and other property."—*Lives*.

† Cited in *Lives*, vol. ii, p. 266.

glad tidings of the blessed gospel were not allowed to be heard.* Of the circumstances attending their last visit, the sufficiently brief, but unmistakable record of the period, affords a remarkable instance, shewing alike the harassing state of the times and the abandoned nature of those godless soldiery, who, on their arrival one Sunday, went straightway to the church, and in the midst of the sermon, "scattered all ye people to goe and provyd corn and strae."†

John of Edzell, who, in all these ravages and exactments over his lands (for we have already seen that he was heavily fined by the Earl of Middleton) beheld, with regret, the irremediable ruin of his house, died in 1671, and was succeeded by his son, David, who (as the third and last Lord Spynie—the chief of the Lindsays—had just died without male issue), became the head of his important clan; but, unfortunately, his disposition was of so extravagant a character, that he rather tended to increase than dispel the destructive cloud which enshrouded the family fortunes; and he, in turn, closed his vain-glorious career in 1698,‡ and was succeeded by his still more reckless and abandoned son, David, *the last of the Lindsays of Edzell*.

This laird had two sisters, Margaret and Janet, and their mother, only daughter to James Grahame, brother to the laird of Fintry, died while they were all young. The oldest daughter married Watson of Aitherny, in Fife, and had the large dowry of seven thousand marks;|| and the younger (the lovelier of the twain, whose melancholy history has formed the theme of more poets than one), fell a victim to the heartless arts of a young Scottish nobleman, and died in England in obscurity and shame; while her seducer (popularly, but erroneously, stated to be Lord Spynie), fell at the battle of Almanza, in Spain, in 1707.§

* *Par. Reg.*, Mar. 9, 1662.

† *Ibid.*, Sept. 26, 1664.

‡ 1698.—"Upon this fyftiend day of Febervarij, the Right Noble Laird of Edzell died and was buried vpon the fyftaind day of March, and the minister [of] Edsell, Mr. John Balvaird, preached his funerall sermon the sam sd day."—*Parish Reg.* See APPENDIX No. II. for excerpts from the Rental Book of this Laird.

|| (*Crawford Case*, p. 201.)—The marriage of this lady is thus noticed:—"The Laird of Edernie and his Ladie were lauffullie proclaimed att particullar dyets: and was maryed vpon the 8th day of Debr. jal. vic. and nyntie two years."—*Edzell Par. Register*.

§ The following is the baptismal entry of this unfortunate lady:—"1684; David Lindsay off Edzell had a daughter baptized vpon ye 2d off October, named Jannett, befor Mr. John Lyndsay in Dallbog Mill, and Alexander Wishart in Scleetfood."—*Par. Register*. [Lord Edzell also had a daughter named Jannet, who, according to a monument in Inverkeillor churchyard, was married to Gardyne of Lawton in 1603.]

The fate of Lady Janet need not be dwelt upon ; indeed, beyond this sad, and too true incident, and the rather striking tradition, that while she lived at Edzell, she was followed to the church, and in all her walks, by a pretty white lamb—the emblem of innocence and purity—nothing whatever is preserved of her history ; but the last visit of Lady Aitherny to the house of her birth and her sires is so beautifully and touchingly told by her noble biographer, and so true to current tradition, that we shall give it entire :—“ Year after year passed away, and the castle fell to ruin,—the banner rotted on the keep—the roofs fell in—the pleasance became a wilderness—the summer-house fell to decay—the woods grew wild and tangled—the dogs died about the place, and the name of the old proprietors was seldom mentioned, when a lady one day arrived at Edzell, as it is still related, in her own coach, and drove to the castle. She was tall and beautiful, and dressed in deep mourning. ‘ When she came near the ancient burying-place,’ says the same faint voice of the past, ‘ she alighted, and went into the chapel, for it was then open,—the doors had been driven down, the stone figures and carved work was all broken, and bones lay scattered about. The poor lady went in, and sat down among it a’, and wept sore at the ruin of the house and the fate of her family, for no one doubted of her being one of them, though no one knew who she was or where she came from. After a while she came out, and was driven in the coach up to the castle ; she went through as much of it as she could, for stairs had fallen down and roofs had fallen in,—and in one room in particular she stayed a long while, weeping sadly. She said the place was very dear to her, though she had now no right to it, and she carried some of the earth away with her.’—It was Margaret of Edzell, the Lady of Aitherny, as ascertained by an independent tradition derived from a venerable lady of the House of Aitherny, who lived to a great age, and always spoke of her with bitterness as ‘ the proud bird out of the eagle’s nest ’ who had ruined her family. ‘ She came once to my father’s house,’ said she to my informant, ‘ with two of her children. She was on her way to Edzell Castle. It was years since it had passed away from her family. My father did all he could to persuade her from so waefu’ a journey, but go she would ; and one morning she set off alone, leaving her

children with us, to await her return. She was a sair changed woman when she came back,—her haughty manner was gone, and her proud look turned into sadness. She had found everything changed at Edzell since she left it, a gay lady, the bride of Aitherny. For the noise and merriment of those days, she found silence and sadness,—for the many going to fro, solitude and mouldering walls,—for the plentiful board of her father, his house only, roofless and deserted. When she looked out from the windows, it was the same gay and smiling landscape, but all within was ruin and desolation. She found her way to what had been in former days her own room, and there, overcome with the weight of sorrow, she sat down and wept for a long time,—she felt herself the last of all her race, for her only brother was gone, no one could tell where. She came back to Gardrum, the next day, and she just lived to see the ruin of Aitherny, which her extravagance and folly had brought on, for the Laird was a good-natured man and could deny her nothing. They both died, leaving their family in penury.’—And such was the end of the ‘proud house of Edzell.’”

Alike with the history of those unfortunate ladies, that of their only brother, the last laird, is one of painful melancholy. It is true that between the large dowry to Mrs. Watson, and other liabilities, the estate was greatly burdened; still, by prudent management, it might have been soon redeemed, and Edzell restored to the independence and influence of his ancestors. But having been thwarted in love by his cousin, Jean Maria Lindsay,† he cared not to set his affections upon another, and losing all respect for himself, and the dignity of his house, he soon effected its total overthrow. Down to the time of his leaving the parish, however, he was preceded to the kirk on Sundays by a guard of strong hardy retainers, clothed in the family tartan, and, like his father and grandfather, he enjoyed an *eldership*, in which capacity he assumed those extraordinary powers, and had recourse to those arbitrary measures, already alluded to. Not content with designing himself in the ordinary form of a mere member of session, when attesting the minutes, he appears in the dignified character of “principall and chief elder;” and, in the spirit of true feudalism, the Kirk-session

* *Lives*, vol. ii., pp. 264-5.

† *Lives*, vol. ii., p. 259.

is recorded, on more than one occasion, to have “mett at the hous of Edzell as *the Laird appointed*.”

Having this important body so thoroughly under his command, he had no difficulty in subjecting the people to his will,—his power was never questioned for an instant, and, considering his opinion as that of the nation, most of his tenantry believed that neither sovereign nor parliament could rule without his concurrence. Still, though haughty to strangers, and those who offended him, his heart was full of the milk of human kindness, and so warmly attached was he to his domestics and vassals, that he often devoted his best interests towards the soothing of their misfortunes, and the bettering of their condition. The last *kitchie*, or “hall boy,” who died towards the close of last century, at the great age of nearly a hundred years, had a distinct and vivid recollection of this extraordinary person; and although he loved to speak of his many daring and wonderful exploits, he ever bore testimony to his warm-heartedness and generosity. And it is a remarkable coincidence, that alike with those of poor Edzell, the latter days of the “kitchie boy,” were sadly darkened, and his last end was not altogether unlike that of his old master; for while Edzell may be said to have died in a horse’s manger, the other was also doomed, through intemperance and dissipation, to close his patriarchal life in the very kennel of the village with which he had been familiar from childhood!

It has been already seen that Edzell’s extraordinary opposition to presbyterianism was the last prominent act, and indeed the last appearance of him in the district. A proud spirited and determined ~~baron~~, he scorned all manner of advice, and the aid of his kinsmen, some of whom offered to discharge his liabilities on the best and most friendly terms, and to restore him in the course of a few years to the full and free possession of the long-inherited and extensive domains of his ancestors. But all remonstrance was in vain; he had resolved to follow in defence of the luckless house of Stuart, and, with a view of raising a company of followers, sold his patrimony, and found a ready purchaser in the person of the fourth Earl of Panmure; he accordingly left the district—the place of his birth, and the property which his forefathers had held for nearly four hundred years—a poor landless outcast! The tragedy did not terminate here, however;

after spending a few years on the small property of Newgate in Fifeshire, "he removed to Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands, where he died in the capacity of an hostler at an inn about the middle of last century; or, as stated by Earl James in his Memoirs, in 1744, aged about eighty years—a landless outcast, yet unquestionably *de jure* 'Lord de Lyndesay.'"*

The life of this remarkable man is certainly not without a moral; and perhaps, his extraordinary and chequered career cannot be more appropriately closed than by a repetition of the circumstances of his "fittin," which are thus given in the simple, but impressive language of local tradition:—"The Laird, like his father," as quoted in the interesting "Lives of the Lindsays," so often referred to, "had been a wild and wasteful man, and had been long awa'; he was deeply engaged with the unsuccessful party of the Stuarts, and the rumours of their defeat were still occupying the minds of all the country side. One afternoon the poor Baron, with a sad and sorrowful countenance and heavy heart, and followed by only one of a' his company, both on horseback, came to the castle, almost unnoticed by any. Everything was silent—he ga'ed into his great big house, a solitary man—there was no wife and child to gi'e him welcome, for he had never been married. The castle was almost deserted; a few old servants had been the only inhabitants for many months. Neither the Laird nor his faithful follower took any rest that night. Lindsay, the broken-hearted ruined man, sat all that night in the large hall, sadly occupied—destroying papers sometimes, reading papers sometimes, sometimes writing, sometimes sitting mournfully silent—unable to fix his thoughts on the present or to contemplate the future. In the course of the following day he left the castle in the same manner in which he had come; he saw none of his people or tenants: his one attendant only accompanied him: they rode away, taking with

* Lives, vol. ii. p. 260.—The sale of the property of Edzell and Glen-sk, was completed on the 25th of August, 1715; and the purchase money amounted to the then large sum of £192,502 Scots, or nearly £16,042 stg. The laird's feelings regarding the Stewart interest may be inferred from the following extract from a letter addressed by him to Colin, Earl of Balcarres, on the 18th of May, 1712, in which the daring and luckless transaction is hinted at in obscure, but unmistakable terms:—"I spoke to my Lord Dun [David Erskine of Dun], who told me he would write immediately, but thought it better to delay it till he went to Edinburgh, and procured a letter from ye Justice Clerk [James Erskine of Grange] to his brother, the Earl of Marr, to go along wyth his own; he is very frank for ye project, and says he will write wyt all concern and care of it."—*Crawford Case*, pp. 201, &c.

them as much of what was valuable or useful as they could conveniently carry. And, turning round to take a last look of the old towers, he drew a last long sigh, and wept. He was never seen here again.”*

Although the fact of “Edzell’s” embarrassment was generally known, and but “ower true a tale,” some thought otherwise, and gave ready credence to the local story of a treasure being hid about the castle walls; and so convinced was a recently deceased worthy of this, that he set out one dark Saturday evening for the purpose of seizing the *pose*, the precise locality of which his *knowing* had placed beyond a doubt. With mattock over his shoulder, he hastened *solus* from his dreary clay-built tenement in the moss of Arnhal, and, with hardy step, and unquivering lip, bade defiance to all the ghaists that hovered around the Chapelton burying-ground, and the fiery spirits which now and then lent their blue or scarlet gleam to guide his path through the marshy grounds which he had unavoidably to pass. He stayed not at the heart-rending cries of mercy, which fell upon his ear, as the phantom of the courageous bride plunged into the river, to avert a “fate worse than death itself,” at the hands of Major Wood; nor did he list to the loud victorious laugh of the Spirit of Linmartin, as he rose on the opposite bank of the Esk, and grinned over his ruthless plunder. But on he hied along the narrow plank which crossed the deep gully at the Snecks, and held the tenor of his way to the *California* of Edzell.

The high round tower on the north side of the building was the “gold seeker’s” haven. Here, at the extreme point, was a triangular stone, small in size, and of a different colour from its fellows. To this elevated and isolated part he had to worm his way through thorny cattle-fences, over heaps of mouldered turrets, through bat-inhabited chambers, riven and slimy archways, to a flight of irregular steps, many of which were so far worn away, as scarcely to afford footing for a crow. Still, to our hero—who felt conscious of finding the long-hidden treasure—these, even at the dark hour of midnight, were no obstacles. On the contrary, step by step he groped his way to the pinnacle of his ambition; and having satisfied himself where to direct the aims of his mattock, commenced operations.

* *Lives*, vol. ii. p. 264.

The rain fell apace—the heavens seemed to frown in wrathful indignation upon his unhallowed searches, and the feathery inhabitants of the ruins, and the wild warning notes from the murdered minstrel's pibroch, which echoed from the arch of the Piper's Brig—and the branches of the neighbouring giant trees, joined in the spirit of nature's discontent. Still, these fell as nothing on the ear of the industrious miner : sparks of fire followed the successive and increased strokes of the mattock, while his anxiety and joy kindled as at last he felt the "keystane" shake under his determined aims. Another stroke, and he thought the treasure would be disclosed, and undividedly his own ; but alas ! the blow was given, and down fell the luckless *whin*, or ragstone, and a neighbouring part of the wall, carrying with it half the rickety stair of the turret, on the pinnacle and only secure part of which the old farmer of the Mains, when he looked from his window on Sabbath morning, beheld the solitary and sorry "gold seeker" drenched with rain, and weeping as the hero of old, over the ruins of his ambition !



SECTION V.

"A spectre of departed days
Yon castle gleams upon the gaze,
And saddens o'er the scene so fair,
And tells that ruin hath been there ;
And wheresoe'er my glance is cast,
It meets pale footprints of the past ;
And from these high and hoary walls,
All mournfully, the shadow falls,
Dark'ning, amidst the garden bowers,
The farewell of the fading flowers,
Which seem for gentle hands to sigh,
That tended them in days gone by."

J. MALCOLM.

THE castle of Edzell lies in a hollow, about a mile west of the village, and within a gun-shot of the West Water. In old times this river was augmented by a considerable streamlet which flowed through the little den in front of the castle, and although this channel is now partly under tillage, perhaps the most romantic portion yet remains in the shape of an irreclaimable marsh. Towards the northern extremity of this, under an arid and almost perpendicular point of Drummore hill, the fatal "pit"

of the ancient lords was situated, and its twin-brother the “gal-lows,” stood about a mile south-east, in the muir or wood of Edzell.

Both those feudal appendages are still represented, although from natural deposit, and the exuberance of brushwood, the former is barely traceable; but the site of the latter raises its conical head considerably above the adjacent ground, and is a prominent object in the landscape. The “pit and gallows” were used for the punishment of felons in almost all countries from remotest antiquity, and were not only employed for avenging the misdemeanours of vassals, but for the execution of princes and kings. They appear to have been first used in Scotland in Malcolm Canmore’s time; for his council ordained “that fre baronis sall mak jebbattis and draw wellis for punition of criminabyll personis.” In old writings they are respectively known by the names of *furca* and *fossa*; and the former was generally used for the punishment of men, the latter, of women convicted of theft.*

Unlike most other barons, however, those of Edzell vied with Parliament in the possession of an *hereditary* dempster, or doomster, whose duty lay in repeating the *doom* or sentence awarded by the judge; and, from time immemorial, was held by a family of the name of Duray, who had certain emoluments from the proprietor and his tenants. From each principal tenant they had two pecks, and from each sub-tenant a bassyful, of oat meal annually,† while the laird gave them the free grant of eleven acres of fertile land, on the banks of the North Esk, called Duray hill, from which the family designed themselves “of that Ilk.” To these perquisites, according to tradition, were added the farcical privileges of fishing in the almost waterless burn of Whishop, and of hunting on the hill of Wirrañ with a hawk blind of an eye, and a hound crippled of a leg! Besides, as they had four pennies Scots for ringing the bell of St. Lawrence on high occasions—such as at the births and funerals of the lords and ladies of Edzell—they may be supposed, in addition to the office of dempster, to have enjoyed that of master beadle.‡

* See Dr. Jamieson’s *Scottish Dictionary*, in voce.

† The *Bassies*, or wooden bowls, for lifting meal from the gurnal, are of various sizes, but rarely hold more than half a peck.

‡ See APPENDIX No. III, for some notice of the Durays.

But to return ; some are of opinion—indeed, it is generally believed—that the den in which the “pit” lay, was the original channel of the West Water. It is, perhaps, more probable, as already hinted, that it had merely been the course towards the main stream for the waters which accumulated in the marshes on the hill of Edzell ; and, for the purpose of forming a pond or moat round the original castle (which stood on an isolated mound in the broadest part of the den), this streamlet may have been dammed up or confined on the southern parts. This theory has, at least, plausibility in its favour ; and waiving the consideration of the many thousands of years which the West Water would have taken to form its present rugged course, the circumstance that the “castle hillock” has all the appearance of having been moated—that the level of the den at the northern extremity is twenty or thirty feet above that of the West Water, and that the remains of a great natural fosse or ditch may still be traced running from the hill of Edzell to the top of the den—contributes to favour this notion.

As already intimated, no trace of this castle exists, but the ruins of its successor, or rather those now standing, are the largest, and, taken as a whole, the most magnificent of any in the shires of Angus and Mearns, except those of Dunottar, which rival them only in point of extent. The donjon, or “Stirling Tower,” as it is called, is yet an imposing, and, so far as relates to the outer wall and ground floor, a pretty entire structure. It stands about sixty feet high, is the most carefully executed part of the whole building, and, for beauty and solidity of workmanship, will bear comparison with any of modern times. It is popularly believed to have been erected by the old family of Stirling, but beyond its bearing their name, no other evidence exists ; and although “mason-marks” are discernible on most of the principal stones, it is not supposed that they afford a criterion for fixing its date.

Down to the great hurricane on the 12th of October 1838, the battlements could be reached, and walked upon with perfect safety ; but on that awful night, when most of the thatched cottages in the village, and other parts of the district, were almost instantaneously unroofed, the upper part of the stair was so

greatly injured that the top cannot now be gained without danger. The walls of the Keep are from four to six feet thick ; and, apart from the regular window lights, are here and there perforated by circular and oblong loopholes. A cluster of these guard the main entrance at all points, and afford a striking and incontestable proof of the sad insecurity of life and property, and of the intestine commotions which then rended the nation asunder, retarded the progress of the peaceful arts, and destroyed the soothing influence of domestic harmony.

The base floor of the Tower consists of two damp gloomy vaults, to which a faint glimmer of light is admitted through small apertures. These are popularly believed to have been wards or prisons for holding condemned criminals in days of old, while in reality they were merely cellars used for the preservation of choice liquors and viands, which we have the best of all authority for knowing, were far from strangers at the boards of ancient lords and barons. Apart from the entrance doors in the main lobby, these cellars communicate with each other, and also with the dining room by a narrow stair. Their arched roofs form the floor of that room (which is the only remaining floor in the Keep), and occupying nearly the whole length and breadth of the tower, it had indeed been a spacious apartment, quite commensurate with the reputed power and influence of its owners, while the elevated roof and large windows may be considered as anticipations of our recently improved household ventilation. Seats of polished freestone are raised on the inside of each window that overlooks the flower garden and the fine old castle green, on which, in the hey-day of Edzell—

“ The deer and the roe bounded lightly together.”

The *old* castle is not presumed to have been of much greater extent than as now indicated by the Stirling Tower ; but of this, as of its date, no positive trace can be obtained. The new part, or the long range of building which stretches from the Keep northward, was the work of David of Edzell, before his succession as ninth Earl of Crawford ; and though comparatively recent, is the most ruinous part of the whole, and, with the exception of a solitary base stone of the entrance door of the great hall

(where the Episcopalians met in the last laird's time), no trace of the ornamental part of this section of the castle is supposed to exist; but from the beauty of this remain—which consists of three pilasters and a fine cable ornament on the inner margin, all beautifully proportioned—some idea may be had of the former elegance of the place, and the advanced state of native sculpture.*

Nay, although niches for three various coats armorial are still over the front of the outer entrance, the sculptures are all gone—even that which is said to have lately existed bearing the impaled arms of the ninth Earl and those of his lady of Lorn. It ought to have been mentioned before, that during the widowhood of this amiable lady and while her family were all young, the castle of Edzell was honoured with the presence of the unfortunate Queen Mary. This occurred on the 25th of August, 1562, while Her Majesty was on her well-known northern expedition to quell the Huntly rebellion, on returning from which, accompanied by Lords Murray, Maitland, and Lindsay (the last of whom afterwards forced her to resign the crown at Lochleven), she held a Council and remained for the night, from which time the room in which she slept, though its locality is now unknown, was ever after called the Queen's Chamber.

The outer walls of the castle, however, so far as had been completed, are still pretty entire; but the inner have suffered sadly, as have most of the vaults, which had been carried around the whole; and, instead of being strewed with rushes, or decorated with tapestry, as in the olden time, the acrid nettle, and other indigenous weeds, luxuriate on the floors and crumbling walls, and the screech owl and raven nestle in the crevices. The outer court was equally spacious as the castle, measuring, as may yet be traced from the foundations of the walls, about one hundred by seventy feet. Ochterlony, writing from personal observation, (*circa* 1682), says that "it was so large and levell, that of old when they used that sport, they used to play at the foot ball there, and there are still four great growing trees which were the dobsts."† But, as is the case with most of the monuments of its

* This fragment is figured in corner of Frontispiece.

† Spottiswoode Miscellany, vol. i. p. 336.

social and domestic grandeur, the "dobts" too, are only traceable in their large wasting roots; and, together with the chapel and great kitchen, fell, as did the most of what has now disappeared, by the reckless hands of despoiling utilitarians.

From the magnificent style in which cookery was conducted at Edzell, and the liberality of its owners to the poor, it was familiarly known by the enviable title of "the kitchen of Angus." Oxen were roasted whole, and everything conducted in a correspondingly sumptuous style; and daily, after the family had dined, the poor of the parish congregated in the court yard, and taking their seats on the stone benches, (which still remain on both sides of the outer entrance passage), they received their quota of beef and beer from the fair hands of the lady or daughters of "the proud house of Edzell."

Such is one of the pleasing, among the many painful, traditions which still live regarding this truly great race, whose character, if taken into account with the chivalric period in which they flourished, and their all but princely power and influence, presents, as a whole, some of the holiest and happiest traits of human kindness. He who could exercise but a tithe of forbearance in the unlettered past, or overlook a single inadvertent insult to his lordly dignity, or treat his menials with condescension and affability, exhibited a degree of wisdom and charity which, even in our own enlightened age, would add laurels to the brow of many of the nobly born and the religiously educated; and even in the last laird, who was proverbial for extravagance and haughtiness of disposition, traits of those admirable qualities were not wanting.

It is, however, in the gorgeous embellishments of the flower garden that the classical taste of the family, and the proficiency to which native sculpture had then attained, are most apparent. It contains nearly half a Scotch acre, and is still filled with gooseberry and other bushes; and many of the old apple and pear trees, from which the favourite fruit was pulled in days of yore, are in full bearing; but scarcely a fragrant flower raises its tiny and variegated head within the whole expanse.* The magnificent wall, and the fine sculpture with which it is pro-

* The space occupied by the castle, including the flower and kitchen garden, is fully two acres Scotch. The kitchen garden has been partly ploughed for some years past, and also contains some fine old fruit trees.

fusely decorated,* and the summer house with beautiful turrets and ceiling of hewn freestone, together with the old part of the house of the Mains (which bore the date 1602), were, as already shewn, the work of the later years of Lord Edzell, with whom, it may be said, the truly mental energy and superior taste of the main line of this great house failed. Not so, certainly, with that of Balcarres: as the paternal house degenerated, the fraternal branch advanced, until by the achievements of many successive members, not only in the senate and battle field, it has now attained to that ancient dignity from which it was so long and wrongfully excluded; and many of its members have been, and some of them still are, as famous in the quiet instructive walks of literature, as the majority of their old representatives were in the exciting arenas of chivalry and warfare.

While the forfeited estates of Panmure were possessed by the York Buildings' Company, the venerable house and plantings of Edzell received the first dilapidating blow.† During that time, in the memorable "forty-six," the Argyle highlanders, who were then persecuting and purging the country of Jacobites, took up their quarters here, and contributed greatly, by all manner of extravagance and outrage, to pollute its time-honoured walls, and despoil its princely grandeur. Common report says that those soldiers were brought thither by the solicitations of the minister of Glenesk, who was a stern enemy to Episcopacy. It may have been so; but it is more probable that they had been dispatched to check the daring exploits which an old Jacobite smuggler, of the name of Ferrier, was ever and anon performing in the district. This bold individual mustered upwards of three hundred men in the rebel cause from Glenesk and Prosen alone, and taking

* For detail of these see APPENDIX No. IV.

† The York Buildings' Company was first a private speculation; but incorporated by Royal Charter in 1690, for the purpose of raising the water in York Buildings to supply the inhabitants of London. Its objects were extended in 1719, and £1,200,000 were raised as a joint stock subscription for the purchase of the forfeited and other estates, and for granting annuities and life assurances. These speculations proved unfortunate; and, instead of having the free rental of £14,000, on which annuities were secured by infestment, the Parliamentary enquiry of 1738 shewed that the receipts were only £10,500. The Company was therefore declared insolvent; and from 1732 the forfeited estates were held by trustees for behoof of annuitants, and being exposed to sale at Edinburgh, on the 20th of February, 1764, the lands were purchased by most of the disinherited families, amongst which were those of Panmure, which were sold to the last Earl for the gross sum of £49,157 18s. 4d. sterling. Of this sum £6,245 13s. 4d. were paid for the lordships of Brechin and Navar, and £11,951 8s. 9d. for Glenesk, Edzell, and Lethnot. The Company purchased the Panmure estates from Government in 1719, for £32,524 15s. 8½d. sterling.

up his abode at the mouth of the former pass, carried off horses and arms with impunity, from the country betwixt it and Brechin.*

Major de Voisel was at the head of the Argyle highlanders, which were of about an equal number to that of Ferrier's followers, and through Voisel's superior leadership and training, the soldiers soon succeeded in checking the ravages of their opponents. But, it is painful to know, that even during the most rigid stage of feudalism, the inhabitants of those parts never experienced so much tyranny and oppression—not to speak of the utter laxity of all sorts of moral rectitude—as was then exhibited towards them by those legalised marauders, under the guise of Royalty. As the common attendant of a selfish general and reckless army, infamy and crime, in its most revolting shape, stalked supremely over the land for a brief period, and while the Episcopal churches fell under the devouring element, the gleam was prolonged by the mattresses of the worthy pastor and his faithful adherents; and their wives and daughters became the hapless victims of the base and vitiated habits of their heartless persecutors.

Although much of the fine carved oak work of the Castle was burned, and otherwise destroyed during these revelries, the whole roof and the gilded vane on the Tower were entire for a considerable period after the din and noise of the soldiers had passed away; but all were ultimately brought to the hammer, and sold for behoof of the Company's creditors, and most of the oaken rafters being purchased by Dundee manufacturers, they were afterwards converted into lays for weavers' looms. In short, from the payment of debts, and by wholesale pillaging, every vestige of human comfort and affluence soon disappeared; and, not only the vaults, but the dining and drawing rooms, were made dens of thieves and robbers, and a common rendezvous and protection for traffickers in all sorts of illicit goods. Even the iron staunchels of the windows were forcibly wrested from their sockets, and carried off by the blacksmiths of the district, one of whom, a muscular fugitive of the "forty-five," lifted the immense grated door from its hinges, but being unable to transport it farther at one attempt than the so-called old water track,

* Struther's Hist. of Scot., from the Union, vol. II., p. 359.

he hid it amongst the brushwood, when an envious brother Vulcan tumbled it into a deep pool, where it is believed still to remain.

Such was the barbarous manner in which the Castle of Edzell was denuded of its ancient grandeur. The fine approach of majestic trees, which stretched southward from the castle to the old church, forming a beautiful arboreal vault, and, indeed, the whole mass of growing timber—which had doubtless been more valuable for decorative than useful purposes—was brought under the axe at nearly the same time; and from one wanton act and another, more than anything which the iron tooth of Time could have effected, this once magnificent place, the cherished abode of a long race of the most potent barons of the kingdom, has been reduced to its present lowly, and, it may be said, inglorious position.

"'Tis now the raven's bleak abode :
'Tis now the apartment of the toad ;
And there the fox securely feeds ;
And there the pois'nous adder breeds,
Concealed in ruins, moss, and weeds ;
While, ever and anon, there falls
Huge heaps of hoary moulder'd walls."

Nor did a better fate await the Castle of Auchmull, but its destruction is not to be ascribed to the same party as that of Edzell.—So far, indeed, from its being so, the York Buildings' Company declared that the tenant should "have no concern with the stone house, commonly called the Castle of Auchmull, except in so far as he shall damage it by his use, or neglect of it," in which case he was bound to repair all injury the same as if it had been a part of the mill or farm steading.* It was occupied by the farmer down to 1772-3, about which time he found it so inconvenient, that he offered to bear the cost of a new house, provided the proprietor would allow him the wood and iron and other materials of the castle with which to erect it. Unfortunately this was acceded to, and ere long the famous refuge of the murderer of Lord Spynie was sadly mutilated ; and,

* *Tack*—*Mr. Francis Grant to David Lindsay, 17th Feb., 1756, in possession of his grandson, the present tenant.*

the work of destruction once begun, had only its limit in the complete annihilation of the stronghold, for although, after building the farm house originally stipulated for, a goodly fabric, in the form of a square tower, similar to that of Invermark, graced the high banks of the romantic rivulet, yet that, too, was demolished for the purpose of building fences and filling drains, and only a small part of the foundations are now traceable. Truly, it may be said, that "heartless man," together with

"[Old] Time, hath done his work of ill
On statues, fount, and hall ;
Ruin'd, and lone, they year by year,
Fragment, by fragment fall."



OLD KIRKYARD OF EDZELL.

CHAPTER II.

Glenesk.

"The little churchyard by the lonely lake,
All shaded round by heath-clad mountains hoar;
With ruined fane in which the pious met,
And raised the supplicating prayer of yore.

Here sleeps the Poet who tuned his magic lyre
And sung the curious freaks of days gone by;
Here, too, lie those who tilled the lazy soil,
And filled the cots which now in ruins lie."

SECTION I.

THOUGH the church of Glenesk, or Lochlee,* as this fine pastoral district is now indiscriminately termed, is one of the oldest established in the county, little is known of its history beyond the interesting facts of the name of its founder and the period of his settlement. St. Drostan, a saint of the blood royal of Scotland, and Abbot of Donegall in Ireland, was the first who took an interest in the eternal welfare of its inhabitants. On returning from the sister country, in the eighth century, he took up his abode here, and proclaimed the glad tidings of salvation to the scattered population during the remainder of his long life. He died in the year 809, and his feast is held on the 11th of July.

Though Drostan's relics, like those of most of the Saints, survived his decease for many ages, and probably survive and work miracles in some obscure corner to this day, it is not to be supposed that the church, of which the ruins still remain, though said to be of unknown antiquity, was the theatre of his ministry. The little wooden cell in which he dwelt, and every fragment of the rude cross which he raised, have long since passed away—even their exact sites have become unknown. And no great wonder; 'tis only remarkable that his name should exist in the district even in its present sadly metamorphosed state; for, it will be perceived that more than a thousand years have rolled past since his fervent and supplicating prayers resounded amongst these mountains, and since the long and mournful train of grateful

* *Gleann-uíge*, i. e. "the glen of water,"—*Loch-le*, i. e. "the smooth lake."

converts and holy brethren bore his meagre relics across the hills, and had them deposited in a stone chest which was prepared for them at the church of Aberdour, in Aberdeenshire, of which he was patron.*

From the site of the present manse of Glenesk being called "Droustie," and a fountain near by "Droustie's well," it may be inferred that these are corruptions of the name of St. Drostan, and point to the site of his ancient residence and church. "Droustie's Meadow" is also the name of a piece of ground near the parsonage at Tarfside, which, with the exception of the St. Drostan's well already alluded to near the old church of Neudos, are the only places in the district bearing similar designations. Though now annexed to Edzell, the parish of Neudos was, from early times a separate cure, and, so far as known, had never any connection with Glenesk; in fact, the situation of the old kirk, and more particularly that of the well (both of which lie considerably east of the glen), are favourable to this idea, and, as previously hinted, the presence of the fountain is only to be taken as implying that the church was dedicated to St. Drostan, whilst Droustie in Glenesk may be considered as the principal place of his residence and ministry.

The old kirk, which stands by the side of the Loch, is also sometimes called the "kirk of Droustie;" and a deep pool in the river Lee, immediately south of the farmhouse of Kirkton, and now used principally for sheep-washing, has, time out of memory, borne the significant appellation of the "Monk's Pool," and so termed, it is said, from the monks having had a right to fish for salmon there during the flesh-proscribed season of Lent: five fine large fish were taken out of it some years ago.

From the time of St. Drostan, down to the year 1723, when the district was erected into an independent parish, very little is known of its ecclesiastical history. There is no record of it before the time of the Reformation, and, instead of its having any chaplainries connected with it, it was of itself merely a chaplainry of the adjoining parish of Lethnot.† About the time of the Reformation, however, a Mr. Hay was appointed reader, with the scanty salary of twenty-four merks a-year, or about

* Collections on Aberdeenshire, p. 442, —Spalding Club; Butler's Lives of the Saints.

† (A. D. 1640) — *Crawford Case*, p. 187.

twenty-six shillings and ninepence sterling, for which he had to exhort the people in the absence of the minister, who only preached here once every three weeks, "weather permitting;" and in a district so extensive (for the parish embraces an area of more than a hundred miles square), and far removed from the residence of the clergyman, the office of reader, if we are to suppose that matters stood then as they did at a later period, had been onerous in the extreme. An augmentation, however, was afterwards made to his salary, by the laird of Edzell, to the extent of two bolls of oatmeal, two crofts of land adjoining the church, and pasture for a horse and cow, and twenty sheep*—items which still augment the coffers of the teacher of Glenesk beyond those of most of his lowland brethren, and tend to compensate, partially at least, for his lonely abode and meagre attendance of pupils.

By decret of 1717, the gross amount of the minister's stipend was one thousand and fifty pounds Scots; but in 1723, when the parish was erected, and Navar annexed to Lethnot in its stead, an additional nine hundred and fifty pounds Scots were given, together with a large arable and pasture glebe, and commodious manse.†

Erected into a separate parish in 1723, the first clergyman was Mr. Garden, a relative to the factor of the York Buildings' Company, and there being no manse until the year 1750, he and his successors occupied a part of the Castle of Invermark down to that time. Mr. Garden was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Blair in 1731, who only remained two years, when he was translated to the first charge of the parish of Brechin, and there, in 1760, he established a Sabbath evening school, which is said to have been the first opened in Scotland.‡ Mr. Blair's successor, Mr. Scott, as will be immediately shewn, bore a prominent part in the Episcopal expulsion which followed the great political movements of the rebellion. Betwixt his death in 1758, and Mr. Inglis' appointment in 1807, the cure was filled by Messrs. Ross and Pirie, the latter of whom wrote the first Statistical Account of the parish.

Registers of the various parochial incidents were commenced

* Copy—*Settlement by John Lindsay of Edzell, Aug. 22, 1639, in Schoolmaster's possession.*

† Old Statistical Acct., vol. v.

‡ Mr. Blair married Christian Doig, heiress of Cookston and Unthank, near Brechin.

in 1730, and, while in the keeping of the pains-taking and ingenious Mr. Alexander Ross (who was settled here in 1732), they are most interesting and ample regarding all matters touched upon. The inestimable value of baptismal and other registrations were so apparent to him, and the pains which he took to ascertain particulars so assiduous, as to be worthy the imitation of many of his brethern of the present time; while the manner in which he deplores the disregard with which his efforts were treated by those whom they were most calculated to benefit, shews the simplicity of his character, and the superiority of his mind, in one of its most benign and single-hearted aspects.—“I designed,” he writes, evidently in a tone of unmingled regret, “to have kept a regular accompt of the baptisms in this parish during my incumbency as Session-Clerk, and Precentor; but no man, whether attending kirk or meeting-house [*i. e.* Episcopal Chapel], ever once desired me to do that office for him, or ever gave me the dues for enrolling their children, except David Christison in Auchrony, that paid me for recording his eldest son, John; and even the few that are recorded were done by informing myself of their names and the time of their baptism the best way I could, so that I hope the world will excuse me when the register is found deficient as to this particular.”*

When erected into a separate parish, all the inhabitants here, as in Edzell and Lethnot, were either Episcopalians or Roman Catholics, but mainly the former; and owing to the favour with which Episcopacy has always been received in the district, it has flourished here with unabated success ever since its establishment in Scotland. As matter of course, Jacobitism ran high during the rebellion; but the Hanoverian interest had also its friends; and the thanksgiving for “the late victory obtained at Culloden against the rebels” was religiously observed in the parish church; and when the elders and kirk session were examined by the committee appointed for investigating these matters, it was found they “had behaved themselves very well during the unnatural rebellion,” and that they were well affected to the reigning king and government.

The first Episcopal clergyman of which any record exists, was David Rose, father of the late Right Honourable George

* *Par. Reg.*, Sept. 21, 1745.

Rose, who figured so prominently in political controversy during the latter part of the last century, and the beginning of the present. Little is known of Mr. Rose or his family; but both he and his wife, who bore the same name, are supposed to have been natives of the parish of Birse. He preached on alternate Sundays at Glenesk and Lethnot, and in various neighbouring districts during the week, and was alike remarkable for his zeal in the cause of Episcopacy as for the forbearance and judgment which he displayed in one of the most trying and critical periods of his churches' history. The time of his settlement in the district is unknown; but it must have been sometime before the year 1728, as he gifted a hand bell to the chapel bearing that date, which, although now rarely rung either at kirk or burial, is worthily preserved at the Parsonage.* His principal residence was at Woodside, in the Dunlappie part of the parish of Stracathro, where his distinguished son, George, was born on the 17th of January, 1744.† Mr. Rose died in the month of October, 1758, and was buried within the parish church of Lethnot,‡ and his widow spent her latter years in Montrose.

In the parochial records, Mr. Rose is always spoken of in the derogatory capacity of "the illegal meeting-house keeper;" but, from the success which attended his laborious and exemplary ministry, his contemporary, Mr. Scott of the parish church, seems to have felt his cause endangered, and tried in every possible manner to render Mr. Rose and his doctrine obnoxious. He demanded, but never returned, the "marriage pledges" of Episcopalians, except to such as apostatised and became members of his church, and had, besides, the credit of informing against the rebel laird of Balmamoon, who long sculked among the fastnesses of Glenesk after the defeat at Culloden. He was also said to have been instrumental in bringing the Argyle highlanders to the district, and of having the first attempt made to prohibit the wearing of the highland garb.|| These, however,

* This bell bears: "MR. DAVID ROSE GIFT TO GLENESK, 1728."

† In all biographies, Rose, is erroneously stated to have been born at Brechin, and, on the 11th of June. The baptismal register of Stracathro bears:—"George, lawful son to Mr. David Rose, Episcopal minister in Woodside, was born on 17th, and baptised on 18th January, 1744."

‡ "To grave room in the kirk, to Mr. Da. Rose, £3."—*Lethnot Par. Reg.*, Dec. 18, 1758.

|| "1748, Dec. 24; This day read an order prohibiting the wearing that part of the highland dress called the plaid, sllibeg, or little kilt, after the 25th curt."—"1749, July 30; This day read from the Latroun an order from the Sherriff of Forfar, discharging every part of the highland dress from being worn after the 1st of August next."—*Par. Reg.*

were government orders, and are thus, perhaps, wrongfully ascribed to him; but it is certain that soon after these occurrences Mr. Scott came suddenly by his death, when passing near the ruins of the Episcopal chapel on the Rowan (which had been burned to the ground by the army), by being thrown from his horse and killed on the spot.*

This fatal accident, perhaps from the peculiar place of its occurrence, was viewed by the Jacobite party in the light of retributive justice; and notwithstanding that Mr. Rose was long obliged to preach to his adherents at the Faulds of Milton in the open air after the burning of his chapel, the cause was rather strengthened than diminished: but death putting a period to his arduous labours, several years elapsed before the appointment of a successor. With the fall of Mr. Rose, the then parochial clergyman, who seems to have had as intolerant a spirit as his predecessor, expected the cause also to fall; but, instead of that, matters went from bad to worse, and as the Episcopalians had little faith to place in the ministry of those from whom they had experienced so unmitigated oppression, they rather inclined to cherish the Roman Catholic belief, which appeared to some of them, in the circumstances, the least of two evils; and, accordingly, a "popish priest" was invited from Deeside, and planted his chapel almost at the very door of the parish church.† This decided movement on the part of the Episcopalians was, perhaps, hastened by the oppressive actions of the parish minister, one of which was his absolute refusal to allow the marriage banns of a worthy couple to be proclaimed, for no other reason than that the woman was "a papist," and would not apostatize and become a member of his church.‡

Ultimately, however, another Episcopal clergyman came to the district, and soon succeeded, by easy persuasives and winning manners, to effect that which his neighbour had failed to accomplish by intolerant enmity, and another humble church was erected, and raised, Phoenix like, from the ashes of its predecessor. It was here that Mr. Brown, father of the learned President of the Linnean Society in London, conducted worship during the whole time of his residence in Glenesk, as did his

* "Mr. John Scott, min^r. here, died suddenly, near Tarfside, on his way to the presbyterie in Brechin."—*Par. Reg.*, Jan. 24, 1758.

† *Ibid.* July 18, 1760.

‡ *Ibid.* September 17 and 23, 1759.

successor, Mr. Davidson, and the late minister, Mr. Jolly, for several years. Thenceforward matters rolled on smoothly, and when the late Rev. David Inglis was inducted to the parish church, the banner of toleration was freely unfurled, and, instead of bickerings and heartburnings, which marked the times of his illiberal predecessors, he and Mr. Jolly met as brethren, and resolved everything for the best where the affairs of individual members of their congregations required ; and exchanged visits on the most friendly and conciliatory terms, living here below as they hoped to live hereafter.

Thus, the aspect of Christianity was totally changed in the district, and two years after Mr. Inglis' settlement, the Episcopalians, who had long found the inconvenience and comfortless nature of the old chapel on the Rowan, set on foot a subscription for erecting a new edifice, which had been hitherto delayed by the opposition of contemporary parish ministers. An appeal to the public was made for this purpose, and being descriptive of the state of the old church and the peculiar manner of its erection (not to speak of its bearing the full stamp of the characteristic simplicity of the good worthy pastor who issued it), it is here printed in full :—" In appealing to the benevolence of the public for aid to rebuild the chapel in Glenesk," writes Mr. Jolly, " it may not be improper to remark that the walls of the present one, which is upwards of seventy feet by fourteen feet, were built by the hands of the congregation in the course of one week, nearly fifty years ago. Of consequence, it cannot be supposed that a house so hastily built can be now comfortable ; indeed, it is so much the reverse, that the congregation are obliged literally to stand amongst the snow that finds its way at times through the wall during the time of public worship ; besides, the roof does not now defend from rain :—it's of heath, and has lasted about thirty years.' '*

Issued in October 1809, this " appeal " had the desired effect ; and, in the course of the following year the chapel was erected, and the present neat parsonage built in the following season, towards the latter of which the late Sir George Rose contributed the handsome sum of fifty pounds. Matters now progressed to the best of the minister's wishes—the fortnightly meeting at Lethnot

* Kindly communicated by the Rev. Alex. Simpson, the present Incumbent.

was abolished, and the Episcopalians of that district and of Ferne, and many from the parishes of Clova and Birse, made Glenesk their regular place of worship, and after the long period of fifty-seven years' service their pastor was gathered to his fathers, leaving the congregation in a most flourishing state. It has always continued so, and during the ministry of his successor, the present incumbent, and mainly through his exertions, a school has recently been erected in connection with the chapel.

Such is a brief view of the history and progress of Episcopacy in Glenesk. The circumstances attending the foundation of the parish have already been alluded to, and nothing of any note is recorded in connexion with it from then till now, except at the memorable disruption of 1843, when, as in other parishes, a number of the members seceded and joined the Free Church. As yet that body have no church, properly so called, but have a settled minister who conducts worship in a spacious sheep cot near Tarfside, where they have also a school.

The old parish kirk is situated at the north-east corner of of the Loch, and was thatched with heath down to the year 1784, when it was covered with grey slates. The walls are thick and strongly built, and a loft graced the east or oriel end, which had a special entrance from the graveyard. Although said to be of "unknown antiquity," it is not likely that these walls are older, if so old, as the days of the Marquis of Montrose, for all story agrees that, while he and his soldiers took refuge here in 1645, they burned the church to the ground—and, in all probability, these are the remains of the kirk which was erected after that circumstance.

There is certainly nothing inviting about the mode of its architecture; it being quite of the common barn form which characterises most of our landward churches; but, from its peculiarly romantic situation, it possesses many picturesque attractions which render it interesting beyond most of its fellows. Perhaps the most remarkable of these features is its proximity to the Loch (which is a fine sheet of water, stretching more than a mile to the north-west, with an average breadth of about a quarter of a mile), to which it lies so close, that in stormy weather the ruins and graveyard are frequently washed by its waters, and covered by the white foaming spray; while,

with the exception of a few ash trees which break the sad, but in this case not unpleasant monotony of desolation and solitude, the neighbourhood, like the whole expanse of the glen northward, is solely decorated by

“ The desert mountains and lone sky.”

Within the precincts of this lone cemetery, which has been the favourite resting-place of the hardy natives from time immemorial, lie the remains of the late Reverend Mr. Jolly, of whom we have had occasion to speak so favourably in a preceding page; and, apart from the attractions which we shall shortly see it presents to the lover of Scottish poetry, to us, at least, it has other charms, which, although of a melancholy nature, are far from destitute of interest, and may not be without a moral to others. Near the south-east corner of this enclosure stands a leafless, and almost branchless, tree, battered by the storms, and blighted by the lightnings of several ages. Beside this hoary guard lie the remains of one of the earliest and most interesting acquaintances of our school-boy days. His father and mother died while he was young, and his inclination having led him to follow the ministry, he came to the lowlands for his education, preparatory to entering college. Apt at learning, fond of literary pursuits, and gifted with an extraordinary memory, he seemed, not only from the vast extent of his scripture knowledge, but from a natural gift of oratory, and facility of composition, the best calculated of any to shine in the sacred calling which he was designed to follow.

He left school with the highest and fondest hopes of his master and his friends, who expected to behold in him at no distant day a popular labourer in the church, and an ornament to his native district. Years after he went to college, the same opinion was entertained of him by his professors; but from some untoward and melancholy cause, not now definable, he came to neglect his studies—his evenings were spent in the taproom instead of the closet, and his pen was employed in the service of a scurrilous journal; and he himself, originally of a weakly constitution, fell a victim to those baneful orgies at the early and interesting age of twenty. He died at a distance, but his anxious relatives gathered his remains to the tomb of his fathers, where he now reposes, disturbed only by the dash of the waves

of the lake which lulled him asleep in his childhood, around whose pebbled shores his little footsteps wandered in the guileless days of infancy and boyhood ; and where, perhaps, amidst the solemn grandeur of surrounding hills, he felt the first impulse of those decidedly extraordinary and premature acquirements which led all to hope so much and so highly of his future life.

But, as already hinted, to the lover of Scottish poetry the "auld kirk yard of Lochlee," must ever be dear, as containing the ashes of the ingenious author of "Helenore, or the Fortunate Shepherdess," and its vicinity as the place where he spent the greater part of his valuable and unostentatious life. The humble head-stone, which he placed at the grave of his wife, Jean Cattanach, faces the pilgrim as he enters the hallowed spot ; and there, too, though unrecorded, the corpse of her eminent husband, who taught the "noisy mansion" of the parish for the long period of fifty-two years, was laid on the 26th of May 1784, at the ripe age of eighty-five.* He died at Buskhead, in the house of a relative, where he had gone to reside after the death of his wife, whom he survived for the space of five years, during which time he had these lines engraved on her tombstone :—

"What's mortal here ! Death in his right would have it ;
The spiritual part returns to God that gave it ;
While both at parting did their hopes retain
That they in glory would unite again,
To reap the harvest of their Faith and Love,
And join the song of the Redeem'd above."

The place of the poet's residence is still represented by the rude walls of his cottage and school-house, which are preserved with a commendable reverence for genius and worth. They are just a park breadth north of the kirkyard ; and in their present roofless condition, have more the appearance of "sheep bughts" than that of once inhabited tenements. The little west window, from which an excellent view of the loch and its rugged barriers had been obtained, is now built up ; but the narrow door by which he passed and repassed times out of number, and the hearth of the east, or school-room end, where he sat so many dreary winters hearing the lessons of his youthful charge, are still in existence, as is also the garden plot behind the house,

* "26th May, 1784 ; Mr. Alexander Ross, Schoolmaster at Lochlee was burried,"—*Par. Reg.*

which, though now uncultivated, bears a singularly fertile aspect, and had been correspondingly small to the bard's residence.

Still, though his accommodation was limited and his abode dreary (there being thirty days in winter that the neighbouring mountains kept the sun from enlivening his dwelling), he unexpectedly achieved an imperishable fame in Scottish literature. He also reared a large family, and his daughter, Helen, was mother of the late Rev. Mr. Thomson of Lintrathen, who wrote the best biography of his grandfather, and published the best edition of his poems at Dundee, in 1812.* Apart from the romantic description of the rural life and manners of the early part of last century, with which the poem of "Helenore" abounds, and which are familiar to all lovers of national poetry, Mr. Thomson's life of the author, though less generally known, also preserves some of the still later peculiarities of "the leal and ae-fauld herding life," particularly as relates to Lochlee, in a manner little short of that given in the poem itself.

As the biography of Ross is familiar to most readers, and little can be added to that written by his grandson, we shall simply remark that he was born in the parish of Kincardine O'Neil, in Aberdeenshire, and was nearly seventy years of age before he published his poems. Besides his large poem of "Helenore," he wrote the popular songs of "The rock an' the wee pickle tow," "To the beggin' we will go," "Woo'd and married an' a'," and many others, all of which are remarkable for their natural humour, force of language, and the striking pictures which they convey of the manners and customs of the past, and are frequently quoted by the great Scottish lexicographer, Dr. Jamieson, in illustration of many abstruse terms. As these poems have been long a valuable part of the classics of the peasantry, and equally familiar to those, at least, between the Tay and the Spey, as are the works of Burns, none of them require to be repeated here; but a transcript of the mortuary poetry, from some of the old gravestones at Lochlee, reputed to be Ross' compositions, may not be unacceptable. The

* These parochial entries may be interesting:—"1734, Sept. 9; Mr. Alexander Ross, schoolmaster here, had a daughter baptised by Mr. John Scott, minister here [named] Helen." And on 28th October, 1738, "George Thomson, schoolmaster in Glenmulick and Helen Ross, eldest daughter to Mr. Alexander Ross, schoolmaster here, proclaimed in order to marriage 10," and on 8th Nov. following, they were "married in the church of Lochlee by William M'Kenzie, minr. of Glenmulick."

first of these was erected in 1751, to the memory of a youth, who perished amongst a quantity of heather which accidentally took fire around him ; and, it will be perceived, that the conclusions drawn from the melancholy circumstance are fully as quaint in conception as in expression :—

“ From what befalls us here below,
Let none from thence conclude,
Our lot shall aftertime be so—
The young man's life was good.
Yet, heavenly wisdom thought it fit,
In its all sovereign way,
The flames to kill him to permit,
And so to close his day.”

The next was written on Mr. Charles Garden of Bellastreen, in Aboyne, a relative of the family of Garden of Troup, who were tacksmen or factors for the Panmure and Southesk portions of the forfeited estates. This gentleman, who appears from his motto to have been everything that could be wished, died at the patriarchal age of ninety in 1761, and the epitaph is decidedly the best specimen of the author's powers in this way with which we have met :—

“ Entomb'd here lies what's mortal of the man,
Who fill'd with honour Life's extended span ;
Of stature handsome, front erect and fair,
Of dauntless brow, yet mild and debonair.
The camp engaged his youth, and would his age,
Had cares domestic not recall'd his stage,
By claim of blood, to represent a line,
That but for him was ready to decline.
He was the Husband, Father, Neighbour, Friend, .
And all their special properties sustained.
Of prudent conduct, and of morals sound,
And who, at last, with length of days was crown'd.”

The other, which is ascribed to Ross, and bearing the same date as Mr. Garden's, is altogether so unworthy of his mind, and unlike his style of composition, that we forbear giving it, being convinced that it is the work of another and worthless rhymester. These two epitaphs now cited, with that written on the death of his wife, are, so far as we know, the amount of Ross' work in that line, though we cannot help thinking that Garden's epitaph

savours more of Dr. Beattie's manner than of anything which we have ever seen by Ross. Be this as it may, we have also in this lonely churchyard, and engraved upon a stone of date 1801, this couplet from the quaint and celebrated epitaph which is said to have graced the tomb of Theodore, the unfortunate King of Corsica :—

“ The Grave, great Teacher, to one level brings,
Heroes, and Beggars, Galley Slaves, and Kings.”*

Although the period of the erection of the old church is matter of uncertainty, the age of the kirk bell is well authenticated, for towards the close of the year 1752, the records state “ that there never was a bell upon the church of Lochlee, but an old hand bell *without a tongue*,” and the session accordingly resolved to purchase one at the least possible expense. For obtaining this, a collection was made throughout the parish ; but being short of the required amount, “ some of the old ash timber that was growing about the church,” and “ an old stithy” which belonged to the poor of the parish, and the tongueless bell to boot, were sold, for the purpose of purchasing the present bell, which, at the erection of the new kirk in 1803, was translated thither.

The present church and manse were both erected in the same year, and the late Rev. Mr. Inglis' mother, who died in 1808, was the first interred in the new burial-place. Since then, with the exception of old residenters, who still have a natural desire to lie beside their kindred, the new kirkyard has become the common place of sepulture, and contains some respectable monuments. Perhaps the most generally interesting of these is the neat tablet of Aberdeen granite which was erected by subscription, some years ago, in honour of Ross the Poet. Though pleasing to find respect paid to the memory of departed worth, it certainly seems odd that the stone should be raised at this place, for, apart from its being fully a mile from the real sanctuary of the bard, scarcely one in twenty pilgrims visit this who visit the old burial ground, and many leave the district with the impression that this

* (Frobisher's Epitaphs, Lond. p. 50.)—The oldest monument in Lochlee is a mural tablet with Latin motto. It is considerably effaced, and was erected some years before the oldest above quoted, by the Rev. Robert Garden of St. Fergus, in memory of his parents, John Garden of Midstrath, in the parish of Birse, and Catherine Farquharson, both of whom died at Invermark, the former in the year 1745, and the latter in 1735.

markable poet (who has delineated so faithfully the manners and customs of an age which has passed comparatively unrecorded), lies without any tangible tribute to his worth and genius. The following is the motto, and perhaps it is not yet too late to have the evil remedied, by removing the monument to its proper place:—

“ERECTED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
ALEXANDER ROSS, A.M.,
SCHOOLMASTER OF LOCHLEE,
AUTHOR OF ‘LINDY AND NORRY: OR
THE FORTUNATE SHEPHERDESS,’
AND OTHER POEMS IN THE SCOTTISH DIALECT.
BORN, APRIL 1699.
DIED, MAY 1784.
HOW FINELY NATURE AYE HE PAINTIT,
O’ SENSE IN RHYME HE NE’ER WAS STINTIT,
AN’ TO THE HEART HE ALWAYS SENT IT
‘WI’ MIGHT AN’ MAIN;’
AN NO AE LINE HE E’ER INVENTIT
NEED ANE OFFEN’!”

It is worthy of notice that some of the tablets in this graveyard bear more than an ordinary interest, arising from the circumstances of a premature and painful nature, which attended the death of those to whom they are erected. One marks the grave of a youth from Aberdeen who perished amongst the snow in 1810; and another, the melancholy death of two brothers who fell over the wild precipice of Gripdyke in Glenmark, while collecting their father's sheep. This sad occurrence is recorded on their tombstone in elegant Latinity, which was written under the direction of their brother, the Rev. John Whyte, present minister of Lethnot, by whom the following observations and accompanying translation, have been kindly communicated:—

“I have little to remark regarding the sad accident,” says Mr. Whyte. “The two brothers had, but a few days before, left their usual residence in Glenbervie, for the purpose of assisting in collecting and assorting the flock of sheep intended for sale at the ensuing Cullew Market,* purposing to return after accomplishing that object. The fatal spot has from time immemorial been known under the name of the Gripdyke, from the

* Cullew Fair is held in the parish of Cortachy, on the Monday before the 18th Oct., annually.

circumstance of a dyke, or wall, having in former times been reared there, with a view to prevent the flocks of highland black cattle, then customarily grazed in the glen during the summer and autumnal months, from coming down upon the inland pastures and cultivated lands. The place where they intended to cross the Mark is so narrow that almost any person might easily effect the leap; but the rocks are sloping on the opposite side, and when wet with the spray of the swollen stream are extremely slippery, and demand some care and dexterity on the part of the pedestrian. The shepherds were quite in the habit of crossing there, and Archibald, being agile and good at leaping, could have had no difficulty in clearing the distance; but it is said, that from over confidence perhaps, he made the effort carelessly, with his hands in his pockets; and thus losing his equilibrium, fell back into the rapid torrent, and was speedily carried over the fall into the gulf below—a black boiling abyss, or pot, where the chafed waters wheel in circling eddies round the sides of their rocky barriers. The distance from the spot where he fell in to the edge of the precipice is so short, that David, had he reflected, could have had no hope of saving his life; but, the impulse of affection disdaining cold calculation, he flung himself into the foaming stream, and shared the fate of his beloved brother!”—The following is the translation of the epitaph referred to :—

“In memory of DAVID WHYTE, aged 28, and of his younger brother, ARCHIBALD WHYTE, aged 18.

“As the two brothers were proceeding to leap across at a spot where the Mark, contracted by craggy rocks on either side into a narrow and rapid torrent, anon pours headlong over a high precipice into a deep eddying abyss, when the elder, having already crossed with facility, perceived that his brother had fallen into the impetuous stream, urged by the impulse of holy affection and by the vain hope of saving his life, rushed in heedlessly after him, and both lamentably perished together, on the 27th of October, 1820, in the glen (or valley) of Mark, parish of Lochlee, and county of Forfar.

“To commemorate the premature death, as well as the illustrious example of mutual affection, the talents, the piety, and other excellent endowments which adorned the hapless brothers—Alas! so suddenly snatched away from their weeping relatives!—this monument was erected by their bereaved and disconsolate father, JAMES WHYTE.”

The ashes of the late worthy Mr. Inglis, already referred to, also repose here, covered with a tablet and suitable inscription.

tion. To a benign and conciliatory disposition he added those of charity and benevolence; and, when the wanderings of the disciples of Edie Ochiltree were rather encouraged than prohibited, his house was a well known and welcome resting place "to all the vagrant train," being situate at the south side of the great highland pass by Mount Keen to Deeside. Perhaps no minister ever approached closer to the beautiful description which Goldsmith has left of his father than the late Mr. Inglis; and, although he enjoyed, in reality, more than "forty pounds a-year," it is questionable, when his many charities are taken into account, whether he had much more to defray the expenses of a large family; but, alike with the hero of that inimitable poem—

"Remote from towns he run his godly race,
Nor e'er had chang'd, nor wish'd to change, his place.
Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for power,
By doctrines fashion'd to the varying hour :
Far other aims his heart had learn'd to prize,
More bent to raise the wretched than to rise."

Nor was it alone the homeless wanderer, or "ruined spend-thrift," who had their claims so often and so liberally allowed by Mr. Inglis, whose kindness gave so largely and generally, that his manse has been likened more to an inn than to a private residence. He used to tell an amusing story of a gentleman who had come over the hill one day on horseback, when several pleasure parties were in the glen. The vehicles were, as usual, ensconced around the manse, and the minister was amusing himself alone in the garden. Believing it to be a *bona fide* inn, and Mr. Inglis the landlord, the traveller leapt from his nag, and called on his reverence to stable it up! No sooner said than done; Mr. Inglis, who was as fond of a joke as he was generous of heart, led the animal to the stable; and the rider having seen his horse "all right," entered the house and called for a *dram*. The minister, still acting as "mine host," brought the glass and big-bellied bottle, and good humouredly supplied the demand; nor was it until the hour of his departure, when the bill was sought, that the stranger discovered his mistake, when his surprise may be better conceived than expressed! Many similar traits are told of the hospitality of this worthy man, who died in January 1837, and,

in the emphatic language of many of his parishioners, "the glen has never been like the same place since."

Mr. Inglis' tomb also intimates the death of a youth who resided with him for some time, and who had spent a few of his earlier years in the navy. He was the son of General Hart of Doe-castle, Kilderry, Ireland, and died in 1836, at the early age of twenty-five. His brother and sister had made a journey to visit him in Glenesk, and while resting at the Gannochy Bridge on their way thither, they accidentally received the melancholy intelligence of his death. On this sad occurrence, his brother wrote the subjoined verses, the first of which is engraved on the tomb. Since then, the affectionate hand which wrote the monody has also been gathered to its fathers, and, barring the kindly recollection which many of the mountaineers have of him here lamented, nothing more is known of the family in the district:—

"Far from his Father's home he rests,
Cut off in early bloom ;
Trusting to God, and his behests,
He sank into the Tomb.

Rest thee, my Brother, death is sweet,
When hope to us may be,
That friends on earth, in Heaven meet,
For blest eternity.

Thy earth to mother earth is gone,
Rest then, my Brother dear ;
Thy soul to blest abodes is flown,
And left us weeping here.

Farewell ! farewell ! ye mountains wild,
Which compass him around ;
Farewell, each spot on which he smil'd ;
Farewell, yon streamlet's sound !"

—o—

SECTION II.

"The high wa's o' Lord Lindsay's tower
 Are sadly ruin'd an' lane;
 An' the birks that twined his lady's bower
 For ever too are gane.
 But, though his power has left thae glens,
 An' ither lords dwell there,
 The Lindsay's warlike deeds an' name
 Will live for evermair."

OLD BALLAD.

DOWN to about the beginning of this century, the fine baronial remain of Invermark Castle was in much the same state of preservation as during the palmy days of the Lindsays, being entered by a huge draw bridge, one end of which rested on the door sill of the second floor of the castle, and the other on the top of a strong isolated erection of freestone, which stood about twelve feet south of the front of the tower. This was ascended on the east and west by a flight of steps, and the bridge being moved by machinery, the house was rendered inaccessible at the will of the occupant.

At the time alluded to, it was surrounded by the old offices, which were tenanted by shepherds, while the main building was occupied by two maiden ladies, daughters of the last of the Gardens, who were sub-tacksmen of the estates while in the hands of the trustees of the York Buildings' Company. Subsequently to the year 1723, the castle, as before said, was jointly occupied by Mr. Garden and the parish minister until a manse was erected, after which, the former and his heirs were the sole tenants; but when the present church and manse were reared in 1803, the offices were torn down, and the tower completely gutted to assist in their erection.

The foundations of many of the outhouses are yet traceable; and, however much the dilapidations of 1803 are to be deplored, the main tower, though roofless and sadly spoiled, is still a massive and imposing square structure of four stories in height. It stands on a rising ground on the banks of the Lee, distant from any tree or other protective feature, and, with the exception of the lintels of the door and windows, is wholly built of rough native granite, having the monotony of its architecture nicely relieved by a few well-proportioned windows of various sizes,

together with a circular doorway, and fine turret, which projects from the south-east corner.

The heavy door of grated iron, remarkable alike for its strength and simplicity of workmanship, still graces the entrance, which is now reached by a flight of crazy stones. This gate is quite analogous in construction to that of Inverquharity (which Alexander Ogilvy had special license from James VI. to erect in the year 1573), and, together with the remaining iron work, is said to have been dug from the mines in the neighbourhood, and smelted at a place on the farm of Tarfside, known by the name of Bonny Katie, where Lord Edzell had a smelting furnace. The only floor in the building is that formed by the roof of the vault; and the hearth of the drawing room, and some of the lesser fire places, with pieces of joists projecting here and there from the walls, are the only traces of old furnishings. The dark comfortless dungeon below, enlivened only by a faint glimmer of light which peers through a few of those loop-holes common to the baronial remains of the period, is reached by a shattered stair, but presents nothing worthy of note.

The tower derives its name from its proximity to the mouth of the river Mark,* to which, from existing traces of an old water track, it had once been closer; and, from the remains of a fosse on the west side of the hillock on which the castle stands, it is probable that it had once been moated.

The real era of its erection is as much a matter of doubt as that of the Stirling Tower of Edzell, and nothing can be gathered from the manner of its architecture that tends in any way to unravel the mystery. Some suppose it to have been built in the sixteenth century, and the late minister fixes the year 1526 as the period, but does not cite any authority. Perhaps, however, this was the same building in which the ninth Earl of Crawford died: it certainly, at a later period, was one of the resorts of his unfortunate grandson, when skulking from the pursuit of justice, for his inadvertant slaughter of Lord Spynie, and it is probable that its site had been that of previous strongholds, from the fact that it commands the important pass by Mount Keen to Deeside,† which, although unfitted for wheeled

* Mark is the Norse word for "forest"—hence *Glenmark* means "the forest glen."

† "The chieffe passages from the river Tay to the river Dee through the mountains, a 180

conveyances of any sort, was a pretty safe and convenient means of transit for the pillaging Cateran, who, as is well known, subsisted by the practice of

“the good old plan—
That they should take who have the power,
And they should keep who can.”

Although the garrison of Invermark had tended greatly to diminish the number of these desperate invasions, it does not appear to have been altogether effectual, as yet attested both by record and tradition. In one of these inroads the Cateran is said to have carried off in triumph about the half of the cattle and sheep in the glen; and, in attempting to regain them, no fewer than five of the Glenesk men fell in the struggle, while about a dozen were taken prisoners and carried to the distant home of the reaver, and only restored to their friends on the payment of heavy ransoms.

The lawless outrages of the son of the “Wicked Master,” and of the Marquis of Montrose in these glens, and the sad results arising therefrom, have already been noticed; and, although the inhabitants, according to two credible writers of the seventeenth century,* were a set of “weill armed pretty men,” who mustered so strongly, and fought so bravely, when the Cateran made their unwelcome visits, that “they seldom suffered any prey to goe out of their bounds unrecovered”—this does not appear to have been always the case, for when the Laird of Edzell mortified a grant to the reader or schoolmaster in 1659, he bound himself “that if it shall come to pass that ther be a *general vastation* of the said parochie of Loghlie *be Hielanders* or otherwise, that ther, and in that case,” the Laird and his heirs were “obligst to pay to the said reader the whole stipend year or yearies as the sam vastatione sall endure.”†

from Aberdeine to the heade of Dee, are elewin. The nynthe is Mounthe Keine, wich layes from Innermarkie to Canakyle, on Deeside, and contains ten myles of monthe.”—Sir James Balfour’s M.S., 1630-57, Adv. Lib., Coll. Aberd. and Banff, p. 77.

* Edward’s Description of Angus in 1678, and Ochterlony’s Acct., a. 1682.—“The Angusians, especially those who inhabit the Gramplains, are, even at this day (1678), fond of going abroad armed; insomuch, that they seldom go out without the ornament, or rather burden, of a bow, quiver, shield, sword, or pistol; and they always have with them a kind of hook, to knock down or catch wild beasts or birds, as occasion may offer.”

† Document, quoted *ut sup*, p. 62.

Some of these disasters were recorded in the measured strains of rude local minstrelsy, but all recollection of the verses have long since died away, and the following was written by a modern poet on hearing one of these traditions related :—

Mountbattoo, how dark is the cloud on thy brow,
How grateful its gloom to the valley below ;
For the hand of the reaver has smitten so sore,
The days of our mourning will never be o'er.
He came in the night—he has taken and slain
The wale of our flocks, and the flower of our men ;
The maidens, the widows, and orphans deplore,
And the hollow wind murmurs—Lochaber no more.

The fold now is silent, the shieling is still,
No herd in the valley, no flock on the hill ;
No gay singing maiden a-milking the cows,
No blithe whistling shepherd a-bughting the ewes.
The sword of Gleneffock is shining in red ;
The down of the thistle with crimson is dyed ;
The bloom of the heather is steeping in gore,
And the wild bee is humming—Lochaber no more !*

But, according to the best historians, this district was associated with other and more creditable transactions than the forays of Montrose and the Cateran. During the wars of the Scottish Independence, while Bruce was retiring southward with his army, after the capture of the castle of Inverness and other northern fortresses, his progress was intercepted here by Comyn, Earl of Buchan, on the 25th of December 1307. Tytler takes no notice of this circumstance, beyond the fact of Comyn being aided in his rising by the king's nephew, Sir David de Brechin, and Sir John Mowbray ; but Buchanan says that “ when Bruce was come to the forest through which the river Esk falls down into the plains of Merns, Cumin overtook him at a place called Glenesk. Bruce, perceiving that the narrowness of the passages was advantageous to his men, being few in number, stood ready to fight, expecting his enemy. Cumin drew out his army at length, imagining that Bruce would be astonished at the sight of such a multitude ; but when he saw that he stirred not from the place, and being also conscious of the weakness of his men, he durst not draw them forth into a place of greater disad-

* Laing's *Wayside Flowers*, p. 52, second edition.

vantage." Comyn, accordingly, found it advisable to sue for a truce, which was granted to him on the faith of his retiring from the contest and becoming an obedient subject; while others affirm, that on the approach of Bruce, Buchan's troops immediately fled.*

These warriors are locally said to have *fought a bloody battle* here, and the artificial-looking cairns which lie scattered along the south-east side of Rowan hill are called the graves of the slain; and the name of the mountain is said to have had its origin in the adventure of that day, when, as the tradition runs, the king rallied his forces by calling out *Row-in*!† In the midst of these cairns, by the side of the old road across the hill, a large whinstone, with the rudely incised figure of a cross, is pointed out, as that on which Bruce planted his standard;‡ and another stone among the birks at Ardoch, bearing a few oblique lines, as that on which he *sharpened his sword* after the engagement!

It is not improbable that the stone bearing a cross upon it may have been here in the days of Bruce, and long before, and may have been connected with St. Drostan's religious establishment, for "Droustie's Meadow" is at no great distance from the spot; and as the stone has been removed from another part of the hill and placed in its present position within the memory of old inhabitants, it may have been brought originally from the "Meadow," or, perhaps, from the more distant site of the supposed primitive church at Droustie. About the time of Bruce and Comyn's alleged meeting here, the former was so seriously indisposed, that his life was despaired of, and on all occasions he avoided battle: for, instead of being able to mount a prancing charger, he was so weak that his soldiers had to carry him on a litter, and he continued in that state down to the battle of Old Meldrum, which was fought on the 22nd of May in the following year, when he defeated Buchan with great slaughter, and harried his possessions. Thus, every circumstance combines to shew that the idea of Bruce having fought here has no foundation;

* Dalrymple's Annals of Scot., vol. II. p. 26, edit. 1797; Tytler's Hist. of Scot., vol. I. p. 232; Buchanan, vol. I. p. 225, edit. 1799; Hollinshead's Chronicle, vol. I. p. 433, edit. 1805.

† i. e. "Fall in." Gael. *Fòim*, means a "point," and is quite descriptive of Rowan Hill, which has more of a pointed character than any of its fellows.

‡ Figured in wood-cut at end of this Chapter.

and although elf-shot or flint arrow heads, and other remains of early warfare, have occasionally been found buried in these cairns, they must have belonged to heroes of earlier times than those of Bruce, and to conflicts unrecorded.

Next to these historical incidents, those relating to the "minerals of gold, silver, brass, and tin," which were first discovered in the time of Sir David Lindsay, are the most remarkable. Both Sir David and his brother Lord Menmuir, were anxious to ascertain the extent of these, and entered so eagerly upon the work, that miners were brought from Germany and other places, with the view of working them. Smelting houses were erected in various parts of the district, and the work was carried on with great spirit by a German of the pugilistic name of Fechtenburg, whom Lord Menmuir strongly recommended to his brother as being "perfynt in kenning of ground and discovering of metals."* This happened in 1593-4, and it would appear that the work had been remunerative, for on the 12th of October 1602, Sir David let to Hans Ziegler "and his companions all and sundry the mines of gold, silver, quicksilver, copper, tin, and lead, and all other minerals (except iron and marmor) within all the bounds of the barony of Edzell and Glenesk" for the space of twenty-five years, for which they were "thankfully to pay and deliver the fifth part of all and sundry the saide metals of gold, silver, &c., whilk the said Hans, his partners, shall happen to dig, holk, work, and win out of the said mines;"† and from that period down to the close of the seventeenth century, they were steadily wrought, with, at least, partial success; for, after the lead was extracted, and the metal properly refined, some portions were found to yield a sixty-fourth part of silver.‡

These mines appear, however, though their fame had become so great that they were noticed in all topographical books of the

* Lives, vol. i. p. 343, where Lord Menmuir's letter is printed in full. † *Ibid.* p. 345.

‡ Mr. Edwards, in his Description of Angus in 1678, says:—"The great-grandfather of the present proprietor of Edzell [Sir David Lindsay, who was knighted, 1581] discovered a mine of iron at the wood of Dalbog, and built a smelting house for preparing the metal. This gentleman's grandson [John of Edzell] found some lead ore near Innermark, which he refined. The son of this latter [David, the penultimate laird] found a very rich mine of lead on the banks of the Mark, about a mile up the valley from the castle of Innermark. In a mountain of hard rock, where eighteen miners are digging deeper every day, they have come to a large vein of ore, which, when the lead is extracted and properly refined, yields a sixty-fourth part of silver. This vein seems to be inexhaustible." The mine last alluded to is that of Craig Bristach, or "the rock of fissures." The lead is yet quite visible, and is contained in a vertical seam of quartz from eighteen inches to two feet in thickness, and runs into compact gneiss rock.

period, to have fallen into disuse during the time of the last laird, and were not again wrought until 1728, when the South Sea Company tried to find silver in the mine at Craig Soales, but the overseer of the work being bribed, as the common tradition runs, the work was given over, as an irremunerative concern, and neither gold nor silver, nor mineral of any sort, save lime, has since been tried for. According to some accounts, silver is also to be found near the castle of Invermark; and the still more precious metal of gold is said to abound in the Tarf, particularly at Gracie's Linn (a place so called from a person of that name having been drowned there), where it is said to have been so plentiful at one time, that a lucky lad, in passing the ford, gathered his pockets full of it! Iron also is said to abound here, as well as at Dalbog, and a vein of copper is said to be in an old quarry at Dalbrack,—yet, with all these temptations, and in the present rage for gold digging, even some of the inhabitants of Glenesk have shewn a preference for the distant mines of Australia, and it is not now likely, without the revival of some such "bubble" as that of the South Sea, that those of Glenesk will again be wrought.



SECTION III.

"The mouldering cell,
Where erst the sons of Superstition trod,
Tottering upon the verdant meadows, tell—
We better know, but less adore our God,"

CHATTERTON.

THE historical and traditionary peculiarities of the beautiful valley of Glenmark, though few, are not unworthy of notice. One of these belongs to the history of the unfortunate young Edzell, to whom we have so often had occasion to allude, and who, while lurking among the fastnesses in this quarter, was unwarily surprised one day by his heartless relative, the Earl of Crawford, and a band of followers. Being unarmed, he bounded from his pursuers with the speed of a roe, and making a desperate leap over a wild rocky chasm of the Mark, landed safe on the opposite side, and got within his castle long before his enemies could make up with him, some of whom, in their eagerness to catch him, are

said to have missed footing, and been dashed to pieces over the precipice. Ever since the time of this adventure, the place has been known by the name of "Eagil's Loup."

This glen was as serviceable to some of the proscribed Jacobite leaders of the "forty-five," as it was to young Edzell. Near the foot of Curmaud Hill, a large natural cavity, with a small opening, is still known as "Bonnymune's Cave," and here the rebel laird of that title long contrived to evade his pursuers. The neighbouring farmer, and many of the inhabitants, not only knew that Balnamoon resided there, but made him their welcome guest on all safe occasions, and, notwithstanding heavy bribes, and the vigilance of spies, the place of his resort was never divulged.

The then parish clergyman, however, who we have seen was the sworn enemy of Episcopacy, was useful to the reigning powers even in the degrading capacity of a public informer, and by his heartlessness, it is said, the enemy were put on the scent of this famous fugitive. One cold rainy day, when he had gone to the farm house to warm himself, and while sitting by the wide chimney of the kitchen, a party of soldiers entered the house in search of him, and the farmer, urging them to partake of his hospitality, gruffly ordered Balnamoon, who was in the guise of a poor hind, and frightened to move from the spot, to go and clean the byres, and give place to the strangers. The hint was sufficient: Balnamoon moved from the kitchen as he best could, and betaking himself to his cave, was once more without their reach. He was ultimately arrested, however, but being set at liberty in consequence of "a misnomer," he retired to his family seat; and, as long as he lived, shewed his gratitude to the worthy farmer of Glenmark, by making him his familiar guest on all occasions when he came to the low country.

"Johnny Kidd's Hole," in the same glen, is mainly remarkable as a natural curiosity, and is so exactly described by the industrious Mr. Edward of Murroes, that, although nearly two hundred years have elapsed, the description is yet good, and may be safely adopted.—"In the valley of the Mark," he writes, "four miles west from Innermarkie, there is a cave with a roof of stone, from the chinks of which there drops some water, which petrifies into a substance resembling crystal, of the form

of diamonds, with three, four, and six sides." It is not known why this *hole* received the homely name it now bears,—some say it arose from being the resort of a freebooter, and others, of a shepherd, who bore the name. Be that as it may, however, in the same vicinity, and within the recollection of some living inhabitants, the rocking stone of Gilfumman was an entire and interesting object. There is no trace of any so-called Druidical temple in this glen, but being near Droustie, the rocking stone may have had some effect, in those days when christianity was seen through an indistinct and narrow haze, of inducing St. Drostan to settle in Glenesk. The stone was well known in the neighbourhood, and long considered an infallible discloser of future events; but some mischievous idlers having removed it from its magic pivot, it now lies a large unheeded block, at the foot of the mountains.

Of all so-called Druidical remains the rocking stones are by far the most wonderful. They are found in sequestered dells, and in the beds of rivers, but mostly on the tops or sides of mountains, and are so exactly poised on two or three lesser stones, and about three or four feet from the ground, that a touch with the finger, or a breath of wind, sets them in motion. Such were the celebrated rocks of Gygonia and Harpassa, mentioned by Pliny and Ptolemy, both of which could be made to vibrate with the stalk of an asphodel, but could not be moved from their position by the combined force of many individuals. "No evidences of ancient skill or of primitive superstitious rites," says the learned Dr. Daniel Wilson, "are more calculated to awaken our astonishment and admiration of their singular constructors. There is so strange a mixture of extreme rudeness and great mechanical skill in these memorials of the remote past, that they excite greater wonder and awe in the thoughtful mind than even the imposing masses inclosing the sacred area of Stonehenge or the circle of Stennis."*

Specimens of those extraordinary memorials are found in almost every known country, and uniformly bear names indicative of this singular property. In Phœnicia they are called *Baty-lia*, i. e. "the moving or animated stones," and are attributed to the special fabrication of Ouranos, or Heaven. In Ire-

* Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, p. 117.

land, where eight of them are known to exist, they are called *cloch-chriothir*, or "trembling stones;"* while in England, and some parts of Scotland, they are denominated *logan-stones*, to which the Scottish word "shogin" (the act of shaking backward and forward) seems to be a synonym. Some good specimens are still in various parts of Scotland—such as those at Kells, Beith, Kirkmichael, and Dron; and, until the year 1843, the county of Angus possessed two excellent examples in addition to that of Gilfumman. These were in the parish of Kirriemuir, on the small estate of Hillhead, and, as may be supposed, were the common resort of plodding antiquarians, and all lovers of national curiosities, while the inhabitants of the district looked upon them with all the veneration and wonder which the remains of a remote age involuntarily inspire; but, unfortunately, those time-honoured monoliths are now no more, having been *blown to pieces by gunpowder, and employed in building dykes and drains*, at the late period above noticed!†

There are many conjectures as to the use of these singular monuments; but the general belief is, that they were used for purposes of ordeal; and Toland remarks, that the priests made the people believe that they only could move them, and that by a miracle, by which they condemned or acquitted the accused, and often brought criminals to confess what in no other way could be extorted from them.‡ Mason, in his excellent tragedy of "Caractacus," where many of the prominent rites of Druidism are beautifully detailed, remarks, in reference to the supposed power of the rocking stone—

"It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch

Of him whose breast is pure; but to a traitor,

* Windele's Notices of Cork, p. 271.

† These stones are thus described in the New Statistical Account of Forfarshire (p. 119): "One of them is a block of whinstone, nearly oval, and is three feet three inches in height, nine feet in length, and four feet ten inches in breadth. The other, of Lintathen porphyry, is two feet in height, eight feet in length, and five feet in breadth."

‡ Huddleston's edit.—Toland, who was born in 1670, is principally known as a deistical writer; but his History of the Druids, which was written in a series of letters to Lord Molesworth, is considered the best authority on the subject which has hitherto appeared. Robert Huddleston, the learned editor of this edition, was a native of the parish of Closeburn, Dumfries-shire, and educated first at the Wallacehall Seminary there, and subsequently at the University of Edinburgh, where he took the degree of A.M. He was sometime employed as a teacher at Kirkmichael, and was appointed Parochial Schoolmaster of Lunan, in Forfarshire, on the 27th of August 1789. He was an industrious writer on antiquities, and large contributor to the Scots Magazine of the time, and died on the 27th of February 1821, aged 53, leaving a widow and large family, some of whom still survive.

Though e'en a giant's prowess nerved his arm,
It stands as fixed as Snowdon."

But, the most tangible prehistoric remains in the district are the "Stannin' Stanes," or, as they are more frequently termed, the Druidical circles of Colmeallie. Stonehenge, in Wilts, is well known to be the most magnificent of those vestigia in Great Britain, there being no fewer than ninety-seven enormous stones ranged in circles, covering an area of nearly a hundred acres. All such relics have been long indiscriminately called temples, or places of heathen worship; but from human remains being found within many of them, modern antiquarians suppose that they were rather used as primitive places of sepulture—an idea which the finding of stone cists within the now obsolete circles at Dalbog and at Ballownie tends greatly to strengthen.* Still, it is probable that such places may have been used for both purposes; and this appears the more likely from the fact, that in the early ages cemeteries gave rise to temples in other countries, for Clemens observes that the tombs of the Athenians were the origin of all their churches, and that the first place of worship in the Acropolis of Athens was the sepulchre of Cecrops.

A want of uniformity in the size and construction of these circles is also urged against the idea of their having been temples; but this scarcely seems tenable, for, apart from the obvious fact, that churches had been constructed in early times as they are at present to suit the tastes and number of the population, Socrates of Constantinople, the continuator of Eusebius' church history, shews that the primitive christians were less fastidious in the rearing of their churches than modern writers would have us believe, for he says that even the altar of the great church of Antioch was placed, not in the east end of the fane, as was then usual, but in the western parts.† And, that these circles, have, in some instances, been places of worship, is so far favoured by the name, and the associations of that under review. Colmeallie seems a corruption of the Gaelic *Kilmeallie*, which means "the kirk or cell on a small eminence," an idea which is corroborated by "the kirk shank," "the kirk hill," and "the kirk burn"—names which the hill on the north, and the site of the stones, and the neighbouring rivulet still bear; but no sepulchral

* New Stat. Acct. of Forfars. par. *Stracathro*; see also p. 21 of this vol. † Lib. v., c. 22.

remains, such as those which were found at Dalbog and Ballownie so far as we can learn, have ever been found within them. In the hollow ground, however, on the east side, a circular patch of from four to six yards in breadth, was accidentally discovered some years ago in the middle of a gravel hillock, and found to contain a quantity of black earth to the depth of about four feet. This deposit was artificial, and being found useful in improving the thin soil on the farm, the tenant had the whole of it carried away for *top dressing*, and near the bottom of the pit some vestiges of charcoal were found; but there was no trace of human bones, either calcined or otherwise, or of any sort of building.

The circles of Colmeallie are of the common concentric kind, and the outer encloses an area of forty-five by thirty-six feet, and consists in all of from fifteen to twenty stones, including three large slabs in the centre, which are supposed to have formed the altar. Some of the boulders are of great size and weight, and, with the exception of three, are all prostrated or mutilated. Those standing are each pretty nearly five feet four inches above ground; one of them is three feet nine broad, another two feet three, and the third about one foot eight inches. At thickest, they are respectively thirteen, fourteen, and twenty inches. The largest lies on the ground, and is nine feet five inches long, by seven feet five broad. Others of nearly equal dimensions with the erect stones are built into the adjoining dyke, and another is so high and strong as to form the centre-support or pillar of a cart shed. Although these circles are erroneously described in the New Statistical Account (where they are stated as being almost complete), many old people remember of them being more entire than they are now; but the late tenant was one of too many who saw no use in going a little distance for building materials when he could get them at his door, however revered or valuable; and, as his Gothicism was either unknown to, or unheeded by his landlord, one stone after another disappeared in whole, or was blown to pieces, as circumstances required.

It is worthy of remark, that on the opposite side of the river, nearly equi-distant from the sites of the circles of Colmeallie and Dalbog, a farm still bears the significant cognomen of the *Ronnnach* or *Ranach*, which literally means "a songster or re-

citer." The bard is well-known to have been an important personage in Druidical establishments, and whether the Rannach had been named from being the residence of an Ossian, or from any similar reason, it is a curious coincidence that a place of this name should occur near two so-called Druidical circles, and in a district where the appellations are almost uniformly traceable to natural causes.

About the year 1830, while the tenant of Fernybank was levelling a hillock in the haugh betwixt the farm house and the Powpot Bridge (about two miles north-west of Colmeallie), he removed a number of stones varying in height and breadth from eighteen to twenty-four inches. They were ranged singly and in a circle at short distances from one another, and enclosed an area of about twelve feet in diameter. On trenching down the knoll, the encircled part (unlike the rest of the haugh, which was of a gravelly soil), was found to be composed of fine black earth, but on removing several cart loads, operations were obstructed by a mass of stones, which occupied much the same space and form as the layer of earth. Curiosity prompted the farmer to continue his labours farther; but after digging to the depth of three or four feet and finding stones only, he abandoned the work in despair, without finding anything worthy of notice. Since then, several pieces of old warlike instruments, both in the shape of flint arrow heads and stone hatchets have been found in the same haugh, and so late as 1851, a spear head made of iron, and about fifteen inches long, was also discovered. Had this cairn been thoroughly searched (it being of a similar construction as that of Balrownie, which will be noticed in a subsequent Chapter), it is probable that some traces of sepulture might have been found. It is also worthy of notice—whether as relating to the use of the circles at Colmeallie, or to other circumstances—that a passage across the river, near the site of this hillock, is called "the Kilford," or Kirkford, and "the Kilford Pool" is also near by.

A hillock close to Fernybank, on the south-east side of the Modlach hill, is yet known as "the Coort-hill" (perhaps an abbreviated form of the meaning of the large hill of *Modlagh*, i. e. "the law, or hill of the court of justice"), and may have been so named from the baron's court having assembled there.

A little to the northward, near the present mill-dam of Aucheen, a stone coffin was found nearly thirty years ago. It was about four feet long, composed of rude slabs at the top, sides, and ends, but contained no tangible trace of human remains. A bronze celt, ornamented with the herring-bone pattern, was got in the summer of 1849 in the well at Colmeallie; and some years ago, in the kiln hillock of Dalforth, in the same vicinity, at the depth of three or four feet in the gravel, human remains were discovered, with the skull and thigh bones pretty entire; but minus all trace of stone or other coffin. The thigh bones were carried off by some of the over curious, and the skull, to which some hair adhered at the time we saw it, is still preserved in the locality.

Elfshot, or flint arrow heads, are found in great plenty throughout the whole district, particularly in the neighbourhood of the "Monk's Pool;" but stone hatchets or "thunderbolts," as they are popularly termed, are rare. Still, during the summer of 1852, a fine specimen of these was turned up in the East Ward field on Mains of Edzell. It is made of a tough bluish-grey stone, has never been much used, is rather thicker than usual, and about six inches long, and coated with a whitish substance not unlike pure size-colour. An earthenware pot was also found on this farm a few years ago, containing an immense quantity of coins, principally of silver and copper, and wholly belonging to the mints of Mary and James.

A great many fragments of *querns*, or handmills, have been found in almost all parts of Edzell and Glenesk, but those which have been gathered on the farm of Mains of Edzell are by far the finest, and perhaps the largest specimens yet found. No fewer than nine of these curious relics have been preserved by Mr. Wyllie, the tenant of Mains, some of which are in the best and most advanced state of manufacture, while others are of the rudest or most primitive sort. These were principally gathered on the hill of Drummore (which has already been alluded to as presenting evidence of having been peopled in old times), and vary in size from about seventeen to twenty inches in diameter; and one of them, which is of native granite, had been, at least, two feet when in its original state, for although broken, it is yet about two feet by nineteen inches. With few exceptions they are pretty entire, and mostly all contain, not only

the hole for inserting the pin by which the stone was moved, but also that into which the corn was dropped. The last-mentioned specimen is perhaps peculiar in this respect, as the centre hole bears evidence, on the under side, of having been protected by a piece of wood or iron with four tongues. It need scarcely be said that *querns* are considered the most ancient of all domestic pieces of furniture, and were made of stone, even in the time of the Patriarchs. Dr. Wilson is of opinion that in our own country, prior to the introduction of stone for the grinding of corn, that the mill had been fashioned of oak,* but no example of this sort, so far as we are aware, has ever been found in our district.



SECTION IV.

"I stood in a romantic pass,
Near which swept many streams;
The ancient mountains pale and far
Lay like a land of dreams."

C. SWAIN.

Now that the leading features of the ancient history of Glenesk and Edzell have been shewn, a brief epitome of some of the topographical peculiarities of the North Esk, from its source to the Gannochy Bridge, may not be unacceptable, since that river runs through the whole length of these parishes.

Notwithstanding that more than a century and a half has elapsed since the great family of Lindsay ceased to own these important districts, their name, as we have seen, is yet familiarly associated with both, and, although the physical aspects of the country have perhaps undergone greater change within these hundred years than during the half thousand they were under the Lindsay sway, there is no reason to believe that the course of the river has been materially altered since the times when the ancient lords and ladies of Glenesk and Edzell bounded along its banks in chase of "the deer and the roe."

Nothing is more striking in the general aspect of Glenesk than the scantiness of sylvan adornment. With the exception of several indigenous patches of birks, and a few cultivated

* Prehistoric Annals, p. 152.

strips of firs, scattered here and there, the whole stretch of the Glen, from the woods of The Burn northward, may be said to owe its entire beauty to the grandeur and magnificence of lofty heath-clad mountains. Towards the close of the seventeenth century, however, the scene was more inviting, for then the forest was large, and the whole Glen abounded with "great plentie of wood."* Nay, even a century later, the hills around the venerable tower of Invermark were covered with oaks and pines, and the castle had fine approaches shaded by stately beeches.† While, on the south-east side of the hill of Drum,‡ which once bore abundant crops of corn, the ridges are barely discernible, and, beyond the occasional presence of the careful shepherd and forester, and the fleecy flocks, which luxuriate over an ample pasturage, little signs of human industry are perceptible.

But it is pleasing to know, that these wilds will soon present something of the stirring and lively aspect which they bore in the palmy days of the Lindsays, a spacious shooting lodge, composed of rough native rock, being about to be reared by the present worthy representative of the house of Panmure, whose ancestors (exclusive of the long and fatal interregnum which followed the luckless forfeiture of "sixteen"), have been lords of this large and interesting Glen for nearly a century. The building, which is just about to be commenced, is in the fine picturesque and pointed style of old English architecture; and, while harmonising beautifully with the huge piles of surrounding cliffs, will also form a pleasing contrast to the fine towering ruin of Invermark Castle, in whose immediate vicinity the lodge is to be erected. The whole of the north-

* Ochterlony's Acct., c. 1682.

† Old Statistical Acct., vol. 5.

‡ A gamekeeper has long resided on this hill. The exact elevation of his house above the sea has not been ascertained, but the Rev. Dr. Muir of St. Vigeans (who has made a barometrical survey of some of the neighbouring hills), kindly informs us, that the site of Invermark Castle is about 1000 feet above the sea, and that he guesses the gamekeeper's house to be about 250 feet higher—thus making it one of the highest inhabited places in Scotland, since the mining village of Leadhills in Lanarkshire, which is not more than 1,300 feet high, is said by all writers to be the highest inhabited of any place in the kingdom. The same learned gentleman says, that the hill of Craigmakeldie is about 1,820 feet high; Mount-keen, 2,866 3; and the Braid Cairn, 2,706 5. He also remarks, that "the most striking features of Glenesk are the clear instances of *glaciers* once pervading that valley. From the Loch to Edzell, *moraines* occur continually—one at Invermark two miles long, and the terminal one at The Burn, adjacent to the Dooly Tower, is very conspicuous—all exhibiting marks of a much colder climate than the present."

western part of the Glen is also to be thrown into a deer forest, which will unite with the extensive preserves of his Royal Highness Prince Albert and the Earl of Airlie on the north and west, and with those of the Marquis of Huntly on the north-east, thereby forming one of the finest and most extensive sporting fields in Great Britain.

As a matter of course, these alterations will tend greatly to depopulate the Glen, the number of whose inhabitants, within these fifty years, has decreased with great rapidity. Glenlee and the Bridge of Lee, for instance, which, together with Glen-effock, were deemed so valuable in old times as to form a part of the terce of the Duchess of Montrose,* are now places of apparent insignificance, and almost wholly used for the pasture of sheep. At a much later period than that referred to, however, more than ten families lived on each of these places for one that has done so for many years past, as evinced by the ruins of cottages, and of many fertile patches

“where once the garden smil'd,
And still, where many a garden flow'r grows wild.”

The old hamlet of Glenlee is now only traceable in its scattered ruins, and the last of its inhabitants, who was known by the familiar name of *Johnnie Gordon*, and died during the summer of 1852 (although of little more than half a century's standing in Glenesk), remembered the time when Glenlee was the largest *clachan* in the parish. It was from the decline of the population of this, or the upper part of the Glen, that the parish church was removed to its present site; and now, although fifty years have only elapsed, the population has been so reduced in the district of Invermark, that both the church and school are as inconveniently situated for the great mass of the people as they were of old, when they stood more than a mile to the northward.

But, notwithstanding that the face of nature has been so materially changed here, both as regards its agricultural and populated features—though the place which knew a long race of humble retainers now knows them no more, and many of the farms which lay along the banks of the river are so completely

* Acta Dom. Concll., Mar 1, 1489.

incorporated with others, that their very names are only traceable in the national records, and the repositories of their noble owner, —still, as previously said, the course of the North Esk, so far as known, has undergone but little change. This, the giant river of Angus and Mearns is exclusively a stream of the former county, both by birth and affiliation, so to speak, until it enters the woods at The Burn, from which point until its efflux into the German ocean, it forms the boundary betwixt those shires.

It rises amongst the mountains of Lochlee, and the Unich and the Lee are its original tributaries. The former, rising seven or eight miles south-west of the Loch, and the latter from four to five miles north-west, are both united immediately under the northernmost ridge of the fine picturesque mountain of Craigmaskeldie and are known from thence, for a distance of nearly four miles, by the common name of *The Lee*.

The Unich, as its name implies, has a hurried, bustling motion; and the most of its course, from the Falls northward, is peculiarly wild and rocky. The Falls are from forty to fifty feet in height, and form a pretty highland cataract; but, like other parts of the Glen, they are destitute of sylvan accessories, and so completely removed from all human dwellings, and shut out from the view of every thing, save the blue canopy of heaven, by high terrific mountains, that the locality seems, as it were, the extreme of Creation's boundless architecture.

The track of the Lee has a more friendly aspect than that of the Unich, and, as it tumbles from the north-east shoulder of the Eagle Craig into the green valley, presents many pretty cascades. A little below the junction of these rivers, on the south, and about four hundred feet above their channel, the immense bason-shaped cavity, scooped from the very heart of Craigmaskeldie, is a natural curiosity of some interest, particularly to the angler, from its abounding with a scarce sort of trout called *char*, similar to those found in the lake of Winander-Mere in Westmoreland, and which, in Walton's time, were supposed to be peculiar to the latter place. This is the site of Carloch, whose beautiful little lake sleeps, as it were, in the bosom of this immense and rugged mountain, in much the same way as that of the more famous Lochnagar; and although the grandeur of Carloch has been unsung, and the cliffs less elevated than those of Loch-

nagar, it is not altogether destitute of romantic associations. Here, if the curious traveller has courage to encounter the glistering adder, and patience to scramble over huge tablets of rock, he may stumble upon the narrow entrance to a dark recess, called Gryp's Chamber, where a notorious reaver of that name is said to have dwelt for many years, carrying on a system of lawless and nocturnal plunder. It is a long, dark, and gloomy cavern, with a large stone in the middle, which was used by the infatuated occupant as a table. Another ill-fated spot bears the name of the *Bride's Bed*, and so called, it is said, because of a young and blooming bride having lost her life there in crossing the hills from Clova—whether by unfair or accidental means has not been recorded ;

“ But still, at the darksome hour of night
When lurid phantoms fly,
A hapless bride in weeds of white
Illumes the lake and sky !”

Passing Inchgrundle, the Loch, the old kirk, and the Monk's Pool, the fine mountain torrents of the Mark and the Branny* unite with the Lee a little below the new parish church, and form the head of the NORTH ESK, by which appellation the stream is henceforth known for the whole length of its course.

The river Mark, which has its principal rise from the Black hill of that name, is by far the finest specimen of a mountain torrent within the whole boundary of the parish, and traverses a distance of ten or twelve miles through a singularly romantic valley, which presents, in many places, a terrific wildness scarcely surpassable, and in others, flat and undulating swards of the richest grass. This valley, as already seen, is also worthy of note, on account of its historical and traditional associations ; and about the time that the district was erected into an independent parish, the bridge near the old castle “ was built on general contributions, chiefly by the parishioners,”† and is yet a good substantial and rather picturesque fabric. Droustie, the supposed site of St. Drostan's ministry, now occupied by the minister's house, is, withal, a snug and finely situated place ;

* Gael. *Bran-le*, i. e. “small mountain stream.”

† Inscription on Bridge, now nearly obliterated.

but once upon a time—indeed down to the era of the erection of the present manse—it was the busy, and, to the weary traveller betwixt and Deeside, the welcome scene of an alehouse, which occasionally furnished a little business for the parochial courts, as, in more cases than one, instances are recorded of several members of both sexes having been admonished and fined by the minister for dipping too deep in the nut brown ale.* Whether the celebrated bard of “The Minstrel” had ever partaken of the good things of the place, cannot be affirmed; but in his poetical address to his old friend Ross, after complimenting him on the superiority of his poem of “Helenore,” Beattie takes occasion to speak of the *inn* in the following manner:—

“But ilka Mearns and Angus bairn
 Thy tales and sangs by heart shall learn;
 And chiefls shall come frae yont the Cairn-
 o'-Mount, right vousty,
 If Ross will be so kind as share in
 Their pint at *Drousty* !”

The Effock, which tumbles down a beautiful glen on the south side of the river, about a mile below the head of the North Esk, is the only tributary of that stream until it receives the copious waters of the Tarf. The Tarf, apart from Mark, is the most considerable river in the Glen, and rising from the hill of Cat, skirts the Rowan on the east, and is augmented in its descent by the burn of Tennet, by which glen there is a good pass to Charleton of Aboyne.† Tarf is quite a mountain stream, and from the rapidity with which it swells, is perhaps the most dangerous in the parish; and it is believed, from the frequency of the floods, that much, if not all, the precious metal, for which it is said to have been so famous at one time, has been swept away. During the celebrated deluge of 1829, it rose so high that the stone bridge, which (according to the quaint entry by Mr. Ross in the Parish Register) was erected for the purpose of allowing the poor “to pass and repass in quest of their living,” and for people “coming and going to and from the church,” being neither capacious enough to allow the water free exit, nor sufficiently

* *Par. Reg.*, April 18, 1766, &c.

† The “Eghte” passage from the river Tay to Deeside across the mountains, “is Mounthe Gammell [i. e. Gennat] wich lyes from Glenesk to Glentanner, one Dee syde, and contains sex myles of mounthe.”—Sir J. Balfour's M.S., quoted *ut sup.*

strong to withstand its pressure—bent and fell in twain before the torrent, as if it had been a frail wooden fabric. Prior to the yielding of the bridge, the lower floor of the parsonage and the fields in the neighbourhood were inundated to a considerable depth, and here, as in other quarters, the damage done to property was immense.

At Tarfside, now the only hamlet in the parish, are situate the Episcopal chapel, school, and parsonage, all of which are remarkable for their neat and tidy appearance. The parsonage is surrounded by thriving belts of firs; the nicely kept garden contains many choice and valuable specimens of floral riches, and the place seems altogether a paradise of peace and comfort. The school, which was established here by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge so early as the year 1760, is also at this place, as is that belonging to the Free Church. It is also the seat of the merchant, the shoemaker, the tailor, and innkeeper, and the haven of the weekly carrier to and from Brechin. But the most considerable building here is that of the Mason Lodge—a house of two stories, in the under flat of which the Society's school is taught. This branch of the ancient fraternity of free masons is known as St. Andrew's Lodge, and was constituted in due masonic style by a deputation from St. James' Lodge of Brechin, with the late Lord Panmure at their head, on the 22nd of June 1821. In honour of this institution, a square tower of about twenty feet in height was erected on the top of Modlach hill, to which the brethren walk in a body on the annual feast of their patron saint.

A little to the eastward of the hamlet of Tarfside, an interesting and beautiful range of indigenous wood, called the Birks of Ardoch, form a pleasing contrast to the general bareness of the scene, amongst which a few neat cottages are perched. The most attractive of these is the lately erected *Retreat*, or summer residence, of Rear-Admiral Wemyss. From this point to Millden the road becomes pretty steep, particularly as it approaches the latter place; but within these twenty years it was still more so, for instead of winding alongst the side of the Modlach, it led directly over the top of it, as it did over that of Rowan, on both of which many unfortunate travellers lost their lives in snow storms. It was mainly with the laudable view of lessening the

number of these calamities that the masonic body erected "St. Andrew's Tower," and had recesses formed at the base of it, where benighted or storm-bound travellers could rest in comparative safety. The knowledge of such a shelter, and an attempt to gain it soon after the erection of the tower, occasioned one of the most melancholy of the many sad occurrences of which the Glen has too often been the theatre.

The incident referred to, which happened on the 27th of January, 1827, was this:—the late Rev. Mr. Jolly, accompanied by Miss Catherine Douglas, a daughter of the laird of Brighton, went to celebrate a wedding at Mill of Aucheen, distant four or five miles. It was a fine placid day when the minister and his companion left the parsonage for the house of joy and merriment, and danger seemed far away. After the ceremony was performed, however, the sky suddenly assumed a threatening aspect, and the minister and Miss Douglas took their departure home. As they proceeded, the snow, which had been only a partial drift before, soon fell so thick and fast that their path became covered, and the unfortunate pair got bewildered.—Sometimes they fancied they heard the merry strains of the violin in the house which they had long before left; at other times they could descry faint gleams of light peering from some lonely cottage window; and, in their anxiety to grasp at the least shadow of hope, they wandered on

"From hill to dale, till more and more astray;"

and the lady, becoming quite fatigued, and benumbed with biting cold, fell senseless on the snow, and ere long became

"a stiffen'd corse!"

Stretch'd out, and bleaching in the northern blast."

She expired in the arms of her venerable friend, who continued to feel her pulse until it ceased to beat, and, when discovered by the people who had gone in search of them, Mr. Jolly was so enfeebled by cold and exhaustion that he could not possibly have survived much longer.

The long dreary mountain of Modlach is skirted on the south-east by the water of Turret, which has its source in the springs of Mount Battock, or "the hill of groves." This stream

has much of the rugged peculiarities of the rivers already noticed, and is the boundary line of the parishes of Lochlee and Edzell. On the east, or Edzell side of the Turret, between the bridge and the Esk, the plain comfortable shooting lodge which was built by the late Lord Panmure stands on a rising ground, surrounded by some thriving trees, and here his late Lordship delighted to spend the summers of his later years, and converse with his tenantry, as he did of yore, when he wandered *incog.* through his princely possessions. Of those wanderings many humorous stories are told, but of these a single incident may suffice. One cold and rainy evening, habited as a gaberlunzie, he entered a cottage and begged for quarters, and having a homely welcome from the tenant, a lone old woman, who sat spinning at a crazy wheel, he seated himself by the side of her ill-furnished ingle, and soon made himself acquainted with her circumstances, which he found to be far from affluent. He then began to grumble about the "weeness of the fire," at which the good dame, aware of the old proverb, that "beggars shouldna be choosers," was a little surprised, and assured her guest that she had no more fuel in the house. On this he grew wroth, and seizing the spinning wheel, exclaimed, "I'll soon make fuel," when, in spite of all her exertions and entreaties, he stuffed "the rock an' wee pickle tow" into the flame, and heaping the broken body and limbs of the wheel over all, spread a degree of light and warmth throughout the cottage to which it had been a stranger for many a long year. The poor woman, as may be supposed, was in great distraction at the loss of her "bread-winner," but when her guest had warmed himself to his heart's content, and become tired of listening to her lamentable vociferations, he succeeded in turning her vituperation into praise, and her mischievous guest was ever after the theme of her grateful heart.

The so-called Druidical remains of Colmeallie have already been described, as well as the historical associations of the castle of Auchmull. It may, however, be observed, that though the foundations of this fortallice are barely traceable, the picturesque situation of the white-washed farm house—the rugged channel of the stream—the nice garden stretching towards the burn—the bridge and old roofless mill—are objects of peculiar interest and beauty. Before the erection of the bridge which now spans

the burn of Auchmull, the Glenesk road lay near the North Esk—indeed, it almost skirted its banks at this part, and much skirmishing passed between the laird of The Burn and the people in the Glen before the old track was changed, part of which went through what are now The Burn policies.

Mr. Shand, the then proprietor, attempted to effect his purpose without consulting the Glenesk folks, who, of course, were deeply interested in the matter; and, by way of reprisal, they no sooner saw one week's work completed than they went under night and destroyed it, so that before he could make progress with his improvement, he had to agree to defray the greater part of the expenses of the new road and bridge, to which he had previously refused to contribute.* Opposite the burn of Auchmull, but almost lost to the view of the traveller on the north side of the river, are the bridge and burn of Murran, the vicinity of which is, perhaps, the most romantic part of the whole North Esk, not even excepting the locality of the Gannochy Bridge. Nothing can surpass the grandeur of the massive rocks at this place, which, apart from the surrounding birks of Carneskcorn, are shaded by a cluster of other trees of great effulgence and beauty, while a roofless cot-house near the end of the bridge greatly enriches the scene, and unconsciously suggests the presence of some "auld Mause,"

"that for sma' price

Can cast her cantrips an' gi'e sage advice,
Can overcast the night, an' cloud the moon,
An' mak' the de'il obedient to her croon !"

Within a mile-and-a-half of Auchmull, the North Esk enters the woods of The Burn, and, as before said, becomes the boundary betwixt the counties of Angus and Mearns. It has hitherto traversed solely the property of Lord Panmure, and, as it now divides these shires, so does it the possessions of that nobleman on the west, from those of Major M'Inroy on the east, and sweeps along a course of several miles, which, for extent of rugged wildness and sylvan beauty, surpasses anything betwixt and the famous Hall of Ossian. It would be idle to attempt a

* The bridge bears this inscription:—"1820; Built by the Honourable WILLIAM MAULE of Panmure, M.P., and JOHN SHAND of The Burn, Esq.—Mr. SHAND having contributed to this Bridge and Road one hundred guineas, as a mark of his Friendship for his Neighbours in the Waterside and Glenesk.—Q. D.B.; J. A. Edif."

description of "the dread magnificence" of the scene; but we cannot help observing, that of all its points, apart from the above, none is perhaps more strikingly romantic than that at its entrance of the woods a little above the Dooly Tower, and just below the burn of Murran. Here the water is confined into a very narrow space, by a great mass of clay slate rock, to which the ceaseless action of the river has imparted so fantastic and picturesque forms that they seem to grow, as it were, out of the channel, in a flat-sided, conical form, with sharp sword-like points, rising from thirty to forty feet above the river, and in snowy frosty weather have quite the appearance of so many icebergs in miniature. One of the cliffs, on the west side, is enriched by a fine vein of jasper, which stretches down the whole depth of the cliff, varying from about one to twelve inches in breadth.*

The North Esk is believed to have overflowed the lands of The Burn in ancient times, and evidences yet remain, both in the quality of the soil and in the appearance of the neighbouring lands, to prove the truth of this. Down to about the year 1780, when Lord Adam Gordon bought The Burn, the now beautifully ornamented and wooded banks of the Esk, together with the lands, were almost destitute of trees or shrubs and of all sort of cultivation. No sooner, however, had his Lordship acquired possession, than the work of improvement began to manifest itself—the barren heath was removed, and means employed to render it available for the production of crops. A fine spacious mansion-house was reared, and excellent gardens and extensive plantations laid out. Nay, the hill and banks on the opposite side (the property of Lord Panmure), were made available by Lord Adam for beautifying purposes, and these he covered with plantations to the extent of about ninety acres, from which, of course, he was never to reap the slightest pecuniary advantage. It has indeed been well said, that "there is perhaps not another instance of such a disinterested disposition to ornament a country as this by Lord Adam Gordon," who, in less than a score of years "created a desert into an Arcadian grove!"†

* For a lengthened and minute description of the geological varieties of the channel of the North Esk, &c., see Colonel Imrie's paper in vol. 6 of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

† Robertson's Agricultural Survey of Kincardineshire.

The road by the Gannochy Bridge divides the properties of The Burn and Arnhall, both of which, under the designation of the latter, formed a barony belonging the noble house of Southesk down to a comparatively recent date, and some mementoes of the occupancy of that family are yet visible on a sculptured stone at the Chapelton of Arnhall, as well as in some parts of the old mansion house.* It was from the grandfather of the present baronet of Southesk that Lord Adam Gordon and Mr. Brodie purchased The Burn and Arnhall; and, on the death of his Lordship in 1801 Mr. Brodie added The Burn lands to Arnhall, and continued the improvement so ably begun by his brave and illustrious predecessor. Since then, both estates have been under one proprietor, and Mr. Brodie was succeeded by his only child, the Duchess of Gordon, who disposed of her patrimony in 1814 to Mr. Shand, a West India merchant, from whose trustees the estates were purchased by Major M'Inroy.

The vicinity of the Gannochy Bridge (on the Edzell side of which a fine shooting lodge is now being erected), has long been an object of admiration to the lovers of sublime and romantic scenery, the picturesque vista from which, both up and down the river, particularly after rains, can scarcely be overrated; and here the language of Thomson is peculiarly applicable—

“Nor can the tortured wave here find repose :
 But, raging still amid the shaggy rocks,
 Now flashes o'er the scattered fragments, now
 Aslant the hollowed channel rapid darts ;
 And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
 With wild infracted course, and lessen'd roar,
 It gains a safer bed, and steals, at last,
 Along the mazes of the quiet vale.”

The Bridge was originally built of only half its present width, in the year 1732, and at the sole expense of James Black, then

* These relics of the Southesk family consist of a stone, built into the wall of a cottage at Chapelton, bearing an erroneous sculpture of the family arms, for the spread eagle, instead of being *single* is *double-headed*. These initials and dates, which refer to the second and fifth Earls, are also upon it:—“ANNO. 1668. E. I: E. I. S. 1704;” and, within the house of Arnhall, but now plastered over, are the dates 1669 and 1709. In 1691, this Barony consisted of the following farms:—Mayns, Milne Eye of Disclune, and Milne Lande, Inch, Chapeltoone and Hill of Dillidyes, Bogga-side, Moss-end, Dean-Strath, Staill-Strath, Tillytogles, Burne, Satyre, and Wood-myres. The number of tenants on these were nearly seventy; and the gross rental amounted to 185 bolls, 2 firlots, 2 pecks, and 3 lippies, bear; 296 bolls, 3 pecks, meal; £906 0s. 8d. Scots; 74½ capons, 65 hens, and 440 pultry.—*Southesk Rental Book, from 1691 to 1710 inclusive, in possession of Sir James Carnegie of Southesk, Bart.*

tenant of the adjoining farm of Wood of Edzell; and in 1795, it was widened by the late Lords Adam Gordon and Panmure. The traditional origin of this remarkable Bridge, as preserved by Black's relatives, is nearly as romantic as the site of the Bridge itself. This worthy man, who had no family, was understood to be wealthy, and, as his neighbours had often experienced the inconvenience of round-about roads, and the dangerous fords of the North Esk, and were aware at the sametime of his weak side and heavy purse, they adopted the wily scheme of monkish invention, which induced the farmer to confer this great and lasting boon upon the district. During the winter of 1731, when several lives were lost in the river, the *spirit* of one of those unfortunate individuals is said to have called upon him *three successive nights*, and implored him to erect the Bridge, and save farther loss of life! Unable to find peace of mind, or to withstand the injunction of his nocturnal visitor, his humanity gave way, and he set to his pious work, and had the Bridge erected at the very spot which the *spirit* pointed out!



INVERMARK CASTLE.

CHAPTER III.

Lethnot and Navar.

"Lone Navar's church-deserted tombs."

"Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-trees shade,
Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,
Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

SECTION I.

As shewn in the previous Chapter, the districts of Lethnot and Glenesk were served of old by one clergyman, who preached twice at the former place for every once that he did so at the latter; but in 1723, when Glenesk, or Lochlee, was erected into a separate charge, the parish of Navar was joined to Lethnot in its stead. The road by which the minister went to Glenesk by the Clash of Wirran, still bears the name of *the Priest's Road*, and is the nearest, though certainly the most lonely and steep way, from Brechin to Lochlee.

Navar was only divided from Lethnot by the West Water, and the churches lay within a mile of each other. Both were attached to the bishoprick of Brechin, and, for some time after the Reformation, were under the superintendence of one minister, for in the year 1567 James Foullartoun had a stipend from both of some twenty-six pounds Scots, while each had its own reader, with salaries of twenty pounds a-piece.*

The church of Lethnot was erected into a prebend of the cathedral of Brechin in 1384, by Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, afterwards Earl of Crawford, and large mortifications were made out of some of the lands—such as from Drumesairn and

* The etymology of LETHNOT seems doubtful, and "Lethnoth" is the spelling in the ancient *Taxatio*; but some suppose that *Leemach* was the original name. The Brit. *Neth-var* (and "Netheuer" is the oldest spelling of *NAVAR*), means "whirling streams," and is not inapplicable to the motion of the burns which run through the district.

Finnoch*—both to the parent cathedral and to the monastery of the Greyfriars in Dundee, not only by the first Earl and the Countess Marjory, but also by “a rycht noble and mychtie prince David, Duk of Montrose, and Erle of Craufurde,” who endowed a religious service from these lands, for the safety of his own soul and those of his progenitors and successors, as also for that of his benefactor, the unfortunate James III., for all of whom a daily mass was to be said, and requiem sung, at the altar of Our Lady by the whole convent, which was to be “opinly callit the Duk’s mess of Montross.”† Drumcainr lies adjacent to the kirk of Lethnot, and its rental, with that of Clochie and Mill of Lethnot, was enjoyed by Lord Menmuir, as lay parson of the parish, during a part of the subsequent century.

The first Prebendary of Lethnot was John de Inverpeffer. He was succeeded by John de Angus, and persons bearing the names of Adam de Inrepeffre, and Eue de Anegos, both of the shire of Forfar, swore fealty to Edward in 1296,‡ and to these families both Prebendaries may have been related.|| William Wrycht succeeded Angus in the kirk of Lethnot, on whose decease in the year 1410, the second Earl of Crawford presented his beloved cousin, Andrew Ogilvy, clerk of the diocese of Dunkeld, and son of Sir Alexander de Ogilvy, Sheriff of Forfar. In 1435, the then Prebendary David Ogilvy (who was of the same family as Andrew) was charged with the nonpayment of an annual from Lethnot to the cathedral of Brechin, and, from the fact that the debt was found to have been partly paid to Bishop Patrick—in so far as in his time a large white horse was given, together with the use of a cart and horse to lead stones to the building of the *campanile* or belfry of the church of Brechin in 1354-84—when Sir Henry de Lichon was the renter of the church (*i. e.* of the teinds), pretty substantial proof is afforded regarding the time of the erection of the steeple or spire of that cathedral.

It is unknown to what particular Saint the church of Navar was dedicated, but the Virgin was patron of Lethnot, and during

* *Drum-cainr*, *i. e.* “the ridge of hillocks.”—*Fion-ach*, *i. e.* “a sloping field.”

† *Crawford Case*, p. 45; and *Original Dukedom of Montrose Case*, p. 15.

‡ *Bagman Rolls*, p. 126.

|| From *Reg. de Aberbrothoc*, p. 165, it appears that Walkelyn, the king’s brewer, was the first of the Inverpeffer family. He had a grant of the lands of Inverpeffer, near Arbroath, from William the Lion, about A.D. 1200, and assumed his surname from thence.

the incumbency of the late Mr. Symers, several votive offerings, consisting of pieces of silver money, were found in the fountain near the church, which still bears the name of St. Mary's Well; and the once revered baptismal font, which is a plain circular stone basin, has long served the humble purpose of a water trough at the manse.

Here, as in Glenesk, Episcopacy was held in great esteem, and the chapel, which stood at the Clochie, was also burned to the ground in 1746, and it is traditionally preserved that the soldiers forced the farmer, who was a keen Jacobite, to carry burning peats from his own hearth and straw from his own barn, and with drawn swords over and around him, made him set fire to his own beloved Zion. This, however, had not the effect desired; for though the nest was destroyed, the rooks still lingered around their native haunts, and profited as much by the exhortation of their laborious pastor in the fields, as they had done before under the roof; and, at a subsequent period (as before noticed), the remains of Mr. Rose were laid within the walls of this church, distant only a short way from one of the luckless scenes of his labours. It was perhaps, from the reverence in which Episcopacy was held here that the prayer of the Navarians, to be exempted from compliance with the terms of the Disarming Act of 1748, was refused; for although they insisted that they were out guarding the district against the rebels, they were all denuded of their swords and guns. The same cause may have retarded the formation of a kirk session, it not being until the late period of 1749 (a lapse of nearly thirty years from the disjunction of Lethnot and Lochlee, and the union of the former with Navar), that a parochial court was formed.

The foundation of the present church of Lethnot was laid on the 5th of July 1827, "in due masonic order" (as related by a contemporary newspaper), "in presence of a number of the brethren of the mystic tie and surrounding tenantry." Some of the early repairs of former edifices, if not the time of their erection, are preserved by two stones which form the base of the belfry, and bear respectively, "— 1672· N," and "17· J·R· 42." The first date refers to the incumbency of a Mr. Norie, of whom, beyond the name, little is known in the district; but the memory of Mr. John Row, to whom the latter belongs, is still gratefully

remembered. He was schoolmaster of Lethnot, and subsequently appointed to the church of Navar; and, on the death of the minister of Lethnot in 1723, he succeeded to the charge of the united parishes, the duties of which, in a time of great trial and danger, he performed with all the assiduity and disinterestedness of a faithful minister, looking as carefully after the temporal as after the spiritual interest of his flock—travelling constantly through his parish, teaching the poor cattle herds the rudimentary part of education, and instructing the older in Bible knowledge and moral rectitude. At his death he left many important benefactions to the parish, such as a mortification of ten pounds for the support of the bridge of Lethnot, which was erected in 1725, mainly through his pecuniary assistance. As was the custom of the time, he was buried within the church, and a tablet, bearing the following inscription, commemorates his “good works:”—

“1747.—Here lies what was mortal of the late Reverend Mr. JOHN ROW, minister of the Gospel in the united parishes of Navar and Lethnot, who discharged the sacred office with unwearied diligence in the first of these parishes alone for 5 years, and afterwards in both together for 22 years, and whose labours, through the blessing of God, produced such effects as convinced all who observed them that he had neither run unsent, nor spent his strength in vain. He died upon the 24 day of Decr. 1745, while the Nation was distracted with civil wars, but had the pleasure to see his People adhering to their religion and liberties, while many others had joined those who wanted to overturn both; and soon after Affairs had taken such a turn as he had foretold, both in public and private, the disturbers of our peace being dispersed by ye glorious Duke of Cumberland. His spouse, ELIZABETH YOUNG, who had lived 43 years married with him, died upon the 8 day of Sept^r 1746, and was interred beside him.”

The above monument to Mr. Row, and another erected by the Rev. Mr. Davidson, in memory of two of his sons, are within the church, and the only mottos in the graveyard worthy of particular notice, are two. One of them is curious as being taken from the gravestone of the philanthropic founder of the Gannochy Bridge; and the other (apart from the painful occurrence which it commemorates) is valuable, particularly to the admirers of mortuary poetry, as the composition of Dr. Beattie, the bard of “The Minstrel.” These tombs are both of the chest form, and that of Mr. Black presents various implements of husbandry,

and boldly executed figures of the sower and the reaper of the parable. This tomb is superior to any contemporary erection in the district, and bears evidence of the influence which the sculpture in Edzell garden had exercised on the minds of the thoughtful:—

“This stone was erected by James Black, tenant in Wood in the parish of Edzell in memory of his spouse JANNET WALLIS, who died the 6 of June 1745 aged 65 years, and ad James Black was of age 68 years.

Ah, Sin ! Hence momentary Life, Hence Breath,
Sighs for y^e silent grave and pants for Death ;
What means y^e warning of y^e passing Bell ?
A soul just gone to Paradise or Hell.
To darkness tends y^e broad but slippry way—
O, frightful gloom, deny'd each cheering Ray ;
While, such as walk in paths divinely bright,
Shall shine within y^e Courts of endless light.

JAMES BLACK, Born at Mill of Lethnot, dy'd Oct 24, 1750, at Wood of Dalbog. Chiefly built the Bridge of Gannochie, and doted for the support of it 50 merks Scots : Besides 1000 merks for other Bridges and pious uses : viz. 500 merks for a Schoolmr. at Tillibardin : and 300 merks toward building a Bridge at Balrownie, with 200 merks to the poor of Fettercairn.

No Bridge on Earth can be a Pass for Heav'n
To generous deeds Let yet due Praise be given.”*

The melancholy occurrence, lamented in the following epitaph, took place before the erection of a bridge at Stonnyford. The water was greatly swollen at the time, and the two brothers having but one horse between them, mounted together with the view of crossing the river, and being unacquainted with the proper fords, fell victims to the flood:—

“To this grave is committed all that the grave can claim of two Brothers, DAVID and JOHN LEITCH, who, on the 7th Oct. 1753, both unfortunately perished in the West Water, aged 23 and 21 years. Erected by their disconsolate father, John Leitch, tenant, Bonnington, to the memory of these amiable youths, whose early virtues promised uncommon comfort to his declining years, and singular emolument to Society.

O thou, whose reverential footsteps tread,
These lone dominions of the silent Dead,
On this sad stone a pious look bestow,
Nor uninstructed read this tale of woe ;
And while the sigh of sorrow heaves thy breast,
Let each rebellious murmur be suppress'd.

* This stone, which had latterly suffered from neglect, has been recently repaired by Mr. Wyllie, at Mains of Edzell, who is a maternal descendant of Mr. Black.

Heaven's hidden ways to trace for Thee how vain ;
 Heaven's just decrees how impious to arraign—
 Pure from the stains of a polluted age,
 In early bloom of life they left this stage ;
 Not doom'd in ling'ring woe to waste their breath—
 One moment snatched them from the power of death :
 They liv'd united, and united dy'd—
 Happy the Friends whom Death cannot divide.”

Here, also, but unmarked by any stone, lie the remains of Mary Cumming and Ann Grant, the wife and daughter of the once locally popular rebel veteran, Peter Grant, or *Dubrach*, as he was generally termed, from his having rented a small farm of that name in Braemar. He is buried in the cemetery of Invercauld, near the Castleton, and the following inscription, cut on a large flag of granite, points out his grave :—

“ + Erected to the memory of PETER GRANT, some time farmer in Dubrach, who died at Auchendryne, the 11th of Feb. 1824, aged 110 years. His wife, MARY CUMMING, died at Westside, parish of Lethnot, in Forfar Shire, on the 4th Feby. 1811, aged 65 years, and lies interred in the church-yard of Lethnot.”

—Although the name of Mary Cumming is now scarcely remembered in Lethnot, many reminiscences are recorded of the life of her husband, *Dubrach*. He was a staunch supporter of “ the Stuart race,” and fought manfully in their cause, as a serjeant-major at Culloden, where he was taken prisoner, and carried to Carlisle, but succeeded in making his escape, by scaling the walls. He returned to his native mountains of Braemar in 1746, and, pursuing his original trade of a tailor, made the cap in which his future wife was christened, and was present at her baptism ! Prior to, and long after his arrival in Navar, where he and a son rented a small farm, he was comparatively an unknown “ citizen of the world ;” but, a pleasing incident occurred which added much to the comfort of his latter days.

In the summer of 1820, while two gentlemen from London were rambling in Lethnot, they chanced to meet with *Dubrach*, who was then in the 106th year of his age. Astonished to see one who had weathered more than five score winters still enjoying good health and strength, they got into conversation with him, and were invited to enter his cottage, when he “ tauld some o’ his queerest stories,” as he was wont to call them,

recited the events of his youth, and waxed eloquent in detailing the romantic incidents which befel him in "the forty-five." The days of his youth seemed to return, and his smiling eye was filled with renewed gleams of delight, when, to illustrate the mode of Highland warfare, he put several boys through the broadsword exercise! Interested in the patriarch, one of the gentlemen (Mr. George Smart, now in Montrose), waited on the parish minister, and suggested that something might be done for the comfort of Grant, were his history laid before the King. The suggestion was cordially received, and a petition, containing an epitome of his history, was immediately drawn up and signed by Grant himself, as "His Majesty's oldest enemy," and by the parish minister and elders, and being presented to George IV., he was graciously pleased to command that a pension of a guinea a-week should be immediately given to old Grant during the remainder of his life, remarking, in reference to *Dubrach's* great age, "that there was no time to lose in the matter." But, as was to be expected, the gift did not in the least abate his Jacobite ardour, and, to the latest hour of his life, he expressed his partiality for the luckless Stuarts, and his willingness, if he had youth upon his side, and his aid been required, to "fecht Culloden ower agen!"

Dubrach latterly left Navar and went to his native district, where he died in little more than a year, and intercession being made for his unmarried daughter, *Annie* (who was then above sixty, and solely dependent on the hospitality of her kind neighbours in Navar, where she still dwelt), she succeeded in getting her father's pension continued to her. About this time, also, the late Lord Panmure (then the Hon. William Maule), had a neat cottage built for her near the bridge of Lethnot, where she died in 1840. Among the many curious stories remembered of her, one is told, so highly characteristic of "hieland pride," that we cannot forbear repeating it:—Living entirely on the charity of her fellow parishioners previous to the above lucky circumstance, *Lady Anne*, as she now termed herself, was at a loss to find companions suitable to her station!—"There's nae body," she said on her removal to the new cottage, "but the minister's folk near me that's worth mindin'; an' although it be sair against my wull, I doubt I'll hae to mak' them a *kind o' cronies*!"

The site of the kirk of Navar is about a mile due west from that of Lethnot, on the sunny side of the hill, and in the corner of an arable field, surrounded by a rude stone dyke and row of ash trees. The limits of the church are scarcely traceable, but the highest part of the enclosure is topt by a square erection, about twenty feet high, built of solid freestone, to which a slab of Turin pavement is fixed, bearing the following inscription:—

“ Ann Wyllie in Westside omitted

“ This bell-house was built in the year 1773, at the expense of the following persons and their interest—

Mr. Alex. Gold Tenant in Argeith*
 James Cobb in Ledbreakie
 Frances Stewart in Nathrow*
 James Molison in Craigendowy*
 Ja. Lighton in Drumecairn*
 John Molison in Oldtown
 Alexr. Jolly in Witton
 Will. Speid in Blarno*
 Thos. Gordon in Lightney*
 Da. Wyllie in Tilliearblet*
 Jon. & Andr. Cobbs in Tilliebirnio
 George Cobb in Achfearcy
 John Cobb in Room.†

—The bell was domiciled in the upper third of the belfry, and, as was then a pretty general custom throughout Scotland, and not yet altogether abolished, the beadle had *a pair of shoes annually* for warning the good people on Sundays, fastdays, and at funerals. Prior to the middle of the seventeenth century, however, when Mr. John Fyfe came to the church of Navar, there being no bell in either parish, many of the inhabitants gave the want of it as an excuse, not only for non-attendance at church, but for the committal of many more heinous and sacrilegious offences. It is told, that one Sunday morning while Mr. Fyfe was preparing for church, his ear caught the dull grating sound of a barley mill busy at work, and, hastening to the spot to enquire the cause of so extraordinary a breach of the holy commandment, the miller pleaded his ignorance of its being the Sabbath. The minister, determined to prevent the recurrence of so untoward a circumstance, immediately procured a bell at his own cost, and

† Descendants of those marked thus * still occupy the same farms.

gifted it, as shewn by the following legend, for the exclusive use of the parish of Navar :—

“ SOLI . DEO . GLORIA . C. OVDEROCCE . FECIT . ROTTERDAM . 1655.

Mr. Fyfus . pastor . Navarensis . dono . dedit.”

The first part of this inscription is in raised characters, and had been cast with the bell, but the latter has been rudely cut with a punch or chisel, perhaps, by the parish blacksmith. Prior to the erection of the belfry, the bell hung on the trunk of an old tree in the corner of the graveyard, and unfortunately proved as fatal an engine as its noted fellow St. Proculus of Italy. The accident at Navar did not arise, as that of St. Proculus, by the bell falling down and killing the donor, but by the imprudence of a ploughman, who attempted to ring it on a funeral occasion, when the tongue or clapper, starting from its axle, and falling on the head of a boy who was standing near by, killed him on the spot. This, of course, was considered an ominous circumstance, and, so far as the fate of the bell was concerned, it certainly proved so.

When the church of Lethnot was rebuilt, the late Lord Panmure proposed, as there was a very indifferent bell there, to have that of Navar removed thither; but, unwilling to part with this esteemed relic, the Navarians took it from the belfry and had it hid so securely that it baffled all vigilance to discover its whereabouts. Being convinced that some of the parishioners knew its hiding place, his Lordship watched a fitting opportunity to find it out, and, as the suspected ringleader in the movement required a renewal of the lease of his farm some years after, it was denied him until he should produce the bell, or give a satisfactory account of it. The farmer long resisted compliance with the request, however, and, but for a friendly hint from Mr. Black, the town-clerk of Brechin, who, when at the farmer's house one day, jocularly remarked to him, that if he would fill an old box with *cheese*, or *bells*, he (Mr. Black) would be glad to have a present of it—the farmer would have been thrust from his holding, and the bell, perhaps, been entirely lost. But, instead of this, on the restitution of the instrument (which was effected in this rather unique manner), Lord Panmure not only instructed Mr. Black to renew the farmer's lease on favourable

terms, but also desired him to procure another bell for the kirk of Lethnot.

This interesting parochial relic has never yet been returned to Navar, but graces the church of Arbirlot, of which parish Lord Panmure is sole heritor. It is hoped, however, that it may soon be restored to its legitimate abode; for, although deprived of the kirk, the Navarians tenaciously adhere to the old place of sepulture, and the belfry is still a strong substantial erection. The headstones are few, and the oldest bears the recent date of 1771. Although the mottos are of no general interest, it may be worthy of notice, that the late Jonathan Duncan, who was long Governor of the Presidency of Bombay, drew his first breath, and sported in his earliest years, within a few paces of this enclosure.

Born on the farm of Blairno in 1756,* which his parents rented prior to their removal to the Wards near Montrose (at the schools of which town he was educated), he joined a maternal uncle in India when only eighteen years of age, and began life as a writer in the Bengal establishment. From his aptitude in the knowledge of the languages, the laws, and the manners of the East, he was appointed, at the early age of thirty, to the government of the Province of Benares, where he exercised the confidence reposed in him during a period of unprecedented difficulty, with a success which has been rarely surpassed.

“Among the many blessings which flowed from his administration at Benares” (says Sir James Macintosh, who was judge at Bombay at the time of Duncan’s death, and from whose official record of his career we glean these particulars),† “the reform which he effected in the barbarous and cruel practice of female infanticide among the chieftains of the Eastern part of the Company’s possessions in that province, as it is peculiarly illustrative of the humanity of his disposition, is the more worthy of particular commemoration, since he ever contemplated the success that attended his laudable efforts in the accomplishment of so beneficent an object, as one of the happiest incidents of his life—and with equal ardour and solicitude has he been engaged

* “1756, May 16; James Duncan and Jean Meiky, tenants in Blairno, had a son baptised named Jonathan.”—*Lethnot Par. Reg.*

† *Bombay Courier*, Aug. 17, 1811.—Kindly communicated, with other information, by Dr. James Burnes, K.H., late Ph. Gen. at Bombay.

in prevailing on the chieftains of Kattywur and of Cutch to renounce that inhuman custom, the existence of which, in these provinces, had recently become known to the government."

Mr. Duncan was removed from the government of Benares to that of Bombay and its Dependencies in December 1795, and in that still more elevated position, dispensed justice with marked success and benevolence, and with the unequivocal approval of the British legislature, the Court of Directors, and the inhabitants in general, down to the time of his death, which occurred on the 11th of August, 1811, when he had only attained his fifty-eighth year. He was buried at the public expense, in the cathedral of Bombay, with all the pomp and honour becoming the high position which he held so long and so honourably. A magnificent monument was erected to his memory, on which the place of his birth is mis-stated, as being at Wardhouse, near Montrose—an error which had probably arisen from his having purchased that property, on which he spent his boyhood, and where perhaps, he contemplated spending his latter years.



SECTION II.

*"In truth they were as bold a race,
As ever mounted steed."*

It has been shewn in a previous Chapter, that the property, or parish of Lethnot, came to the Lindsay family at the same time, and in the same manner, as their great Glenesk estate, namely, through the marriage of Sir Alexander with the co-heiress of Sir John Stirling; but the district of Navar, from earliest record, has been conjoined with the Lordship of Brechin. In addition to other payments made from Navar to the church, Walter Stuart, Earl of Athole, who married the only child and heiress of Barclay, Lord of Brechin, gave an annual of forty pounds to that cathedral from his lands of Cortachy, "and failing thereof, through war, poverty, or other cause," the sum was to be paid from the lands of the Lordship of Brechin, of which Navar formed a part.

Before entering upon a notice of the various persons who have borne the ancient title of Lord of Brechin and Navar, it may be observed, that subsequent to the time of the Reformation, Nathrow (which has long formed a part of the estate of Careston), and the neighbouring lands of Tilliquhillie were held by a family of the name of Douglas (cadets of the ancient house of Tillwhilly in Kincardineshire), while at a subsequent period Nathrow belonged to the second Earl of Panmure, and afterwards to a Charles Robertson, who was sometime tenant in Trusto.* Easter and Wester Tillyarblet, which were possessed by descendants of Erskine of Dun, also belong to Careston, as does the grazing farm of Tillybirnie, which was described by Ochterlony as being "well accommodate in grass parks and meadows;" but, with these exceptions, the whole district of Navar has been owned by the family of Panmure since the year 1634.

As regards the ancient Lords of Brechin and Navar, the first was David, Earl of Huntingdon and the Garioch, founder of the church of the Virgin Mary at Dundee, and brother to William the Lion. Earl David had a natural son, Henry, to whom he gave this Lordship, and from the district of Brechin he assumed his surname. Sir William de Brechin, the son of this Henry, founded the *Domus Dei* or Maison Dieu of that city in 1264, and was one of the most illustrious barons in the time of Alexander III., having been one of the guardians of Scotland in the English interest during the minority of that king.† His only child, David, married to a sister of the Bruce, swore fealty to Edward in 1296, and supported the English with great ardour until 1308, when the Scots gained the battle of Inverury. On this he fled to his castle at Brechin, but being besieged by the Earl of Athole, he joined Bruce's standard, and ever after espoused his cause. His son was the fourth and last of the male line of the ancient family of de Brechin, and one of the great barons who signed the celebrated letter to the Pope at Arbroath, in 1320, asserting the Independence of Scotland; but being privy to the conspiracy of Lord Soulis, he and some of the other traitors were executed.

Sir David Barclay, who, throughout the whole war of the

* Printed Retours, 1647-62-97, &c.

† Tytler's Hist. of Scot., vol. i. p. 12.

Independence continued Bruce's unflinching supporter, married Margaret de Brechin, the only sister of the forfeited noble; and now that the male line of the family was for ever swept away, Bruce conferred the Lordship of Brechin and Navar on her husband, in recompense for his many services; but this brave knight was unfortunately slain at Aberdeen, in 1350, by John St. Michael of Mundurnah. By Margaret de Brechin (the niece of Bruce), Barclay left an only son and daughter,—the latter married Fleming of Biggar, and her only surviving child, Marion, became the wife of William Maule of Panmure. The last mentioned David Barclay, who served in the Prussian wars, and died sometime after the year 1364, left an only daughter, who married Walter, second son of Robert II., by Euphemia Ross, and he, in right of his wife, assumed the estates and titles of Brechin; but having participated in the murder of his nephew, James I., he was executed as a traitor in 1437, and in a still more ignominious and revolting manner than his predecessor de Brechin, for his death was protracted over three days.

Athole's wife having predeceased him, he was allowed "simply by the courtesy of the kingdom of Scotland," to retain her lands during the remainder of his life, so that, although his own estates were forfeited at the time of his execution, the Lordship of Brechin should of right have passed to Sir Thomas Maule of Panmure as nearest heir to the Countess of Athole, by descent from Marion Fleming of Biggar, but under pretence of forfeiture, was annexed to the Crown by Act of Parliament in 1438, and was afterwards granted, in life-rent or in fee, to various persons. This Sir Thomas died between 1442 and 1450; and, although admitted judicially to be heir to the Countess of Athole, justice was not done to him and his successors, who found "Chancellour Crichtoun and the King's Councill partys too hard for them to deal with. However, Sir Thomas's heirs got Leuchlands, Hatherwick, Claleck, Jackston, and Stadockmore, which were formerly parts of the estate of Brichine."*

The question of Maule's right of succession is said to have been raised from time to time, and a judgment in favour of the

* *Registrum de Panmure*, vol. i. pp. 294-5—a MS. of two vols., folio (written in 1739), belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Panmure.

family to have been obtained in the reign of Queen Mary ; but it was not until after the death of the seventh Earl of Mar, in 1634, that Patrick Maule acquired by purchase the Lordship of Brechin which, with the title, ought to have descended to him by inheritance.

Among others, Janet, or Jane, Countess of the eighth and unfortunate Earl of Douglas, whom James slew in Stirling Castle, had, in 1472-3, "the life-rent of the king's lands of Petpullock, &c., the Lordships of Brechin and Navar in full satisfaction of her terce."* This lady, however, held these lands for a very limited period, since, in the same year, King James is recorded to have given a life-rent lease of them to David, fourth Earl of Crawford, afterwards Duke of Montrose,† to which lands he maintained a right (notwithstanding that they were gifted to the Duke of Ross in 1480), until the year 1488, when, on the complaint of the King, "the Lordis decretis and deliveris that the said David, Erle of Crawford dois wrang in the occupatioun and manuring of the said landis of the lordshipis of Brechin and Neware," which he is accordingly ordered "to devoid and rede" to James, Duke of Ross, who was second son of James III., and who assumed his secondary title of Lord of Brechin and Navar from this Lordship.‡

The Duke of Ross, who was ultimately Archbishop of St. Andrews, died in 1504, at the early age of thirty-three, when the Lordships of Brechin and Navar again fell into the King's hands, at whose disposal it had perhaps remained until 1527, when it was given to Thomas Erskine, a cadet of the family of Dun, and uncle to the Superintendent. He had a charter of the lands of Kincraig, in the previous year, and was Secretary to James V. from that time until March 1543. He was knighted, and soon after appointed a Lord of Session, and subsequently an ambassador to France to conclude the treaty of the intended marriage between the King and Mary of Bourbon—an alliance which was never completed. In 1541, he had a royal grant of the office of Constable of the burgh of Montrose, which he afterwards conveyed to his nephew of Dun, and which continued in that family until the abolition of heritable jurisdictions in 1748.

* Wood's Doug. Peerage, vol. i.—*Douglas*. † Lives, vol. i. p. 153.

‡ Acta Dom. Aud., p. 123.

On 20th June, 1545, Sir Thomas Erskine gave a charter of the lands of Lychtonhill, Pettyndreiche and Nathrow,* to John Erskine of Dun, and in 1550-1 he exchanged the Lordship of Brechin and Navar with John, fourth Lord Erskine, for the lands of Pittroddy and Balhagardy, in Aberdeenshire.

In 1620, the seventh Earl of Mar, the tutor of Prince Henry, had influence enough to get such parts as he possessed of Brechin and Navar erected into a part of the lordship of Mar; but, as before stated, on his death, Brechin and Navar fell to Sir Patrick Maule of Panmure by purchase; and, on being elevated to the peerage in 1646, he was dignified by the title of Earl Panmure, Lord Brechin and Navar.

Waiving the unfounded assertions of Boethius and others, that the first of the Maules who settled in Scotland came from Hungary with the queen of Malcolm Canmore, and afterwards received charters of the lands of Panmure from Edgar in the early part of his reign,—we shall limit our brief notice of them to the indisputable evidence afforded by *records*. Suffice it to say, that they are of the Maules of the Lordship of Maule,† in the Duchy of Normandy, and bear quite the same arms. One of these, Ansold, Sire de Maule, and Hersende, his wife, are recorded as benefactors to the Priory of St. Martin-in-the-Fields at Paris, about the year 1015, and nine generations are traced from them, chiefly through gifts to the church.

Guarin de Maule, who came to England with the Conqueror in 1066, is the first recorded of the name in Britain. He settled in Yorkshire, and had a son Robert, who came to Scotland with David I., from whom he had various grants of land in the Lothians. This Robert had a son William, who, for his bravery at the battle of the Standard in 1138, obtained the lands of Easter Fowlis in Perthshire, and left two daughters, one of whom married Roger de Mortimer, and, from a daughter of a successor of Roger the present Lord Gray is descended, and thus inherits the lands and barony of Fowlis.

The direct ancestor of the present Maule of Panmure was Sir Peter, grandnephew to William of Fowlis, who, about 1224,

* Dun Charters; Spalding Club, vol. iv.

† This Lordship was at a later date erected into a Marquisate, and in the fifteenth century the titles and estates were carried by an heiress into the family of the Marquises of Morainvilliers.

married the heiress of Sir William de Valoniis, Lord of Panmure, and Great Chamberlain of Scotland. This was the time and manner in which the Maules became proprietors of Panmure, Benvie, Balruthrie, and other estates of the family of de Valoniis, who had a gift of these possessions from William the Lion. This Sir Peter Maule died in 1254, leaving two sons. The second was the brave governor, Sir Thomas, who defended the Castle of Brechin against Edward in 1303, in which noble action he was unfortunately killed by a stone thrown from the enemy's engine. But it must not be inferred from this fact, as is popularly the case, that the family of Maule were then Lords of Brechin, or had any interest in it, the titles and estates being then in the family of de Brechin, from which, however, they are lineally descended, and of which the Marquis of Dalhousie is the true heir of line, though the title and estates have passed to the younger branch of his family.

As the genealogy of the Maules of Panmure is correctly traced in the principal heraldic books, it will be superfluous to go into the history of those who flourished betwixt the time of Sir Peter Maule's death in 1254, and the ennobling of Sir Patrick in 1646. It is enough to say, that most of them were actively engaged in the important transactions of the periods in which they lived, and that Sir Patrick's elevation to the peerage arose from his attachment to the person of Charles I., whom he followed in all his enterprises, and waited upon personally, until prohibited by order of Cromwell, who afterwards imposed the enormous fine of £12500 on him and his son Henry, £5000 of which only were exacted. Earl Patrick's fidelity to the King has been questioned by modern historians, who are inclined to think, from the fact that he made extracts from Charles' private correspondence, which he forwarded to the leaders of the Covenant in Scotland, that he had been guilty of a breach of trust.* It is most probable, however, from the King's well known double dealing in these matters, that the Earl had not only acted with the connivance, but perhaps at the instigation of his Master; for though opposed to Archbishop Laud, he was a strong Episcopalian in the time of King James, and there is reason to believe that he continued so all his life. Indeed, James

* Gordon's Scots Affairs; Lord Haile's Collections, &c.

was so “fully satisfied of *Mr. Maule's* affection in that Way, and of his unblemished Integrity in the Protestant Religion [that he] gave his Royal Consent and Approbation to the Transaction which passed between him and the Marquis of *Hamilton*, by which he purchased the Abbacy of *Arbroath*, which was erected to him with the Right of Patronage of the Churches of *Arbroath*” (and thirty-two others), “all formerly belonging to the dissolved Monastery of *Arbroath*, which, besides the old Patronages of his own Family, made him among the greatest Patrons of any in *Scotland*.”*

Earl Patrick died in 1661, and had four successors in the earldom—his son, grandson, great-grandson, and great-grandnephew. All made considerable figure during the civil commotions of their respective days; and James, the fourth Earl, who added the magnificent properties of Edzell and Glenesk to his paternal estate in 1714, forfeited these and the rest of his patrimony in the year thereafter, for his adherence to the house of Stuart.

The rental of the Panmure estates (though little more than a tenth of their present value), amounted at that time to the large sum of £3437, besides services, being the most valuable of all the confiscated lordships of 1716. Earl James's nephew, William (son to Harry Maule of Kelly, who was also on the rebel side at Sheriffmuir, and rescued his brother from the enemy), was granduncle to the late Lord Panmure, and recovered these possessions by purchase in 1764, and added others to them. He was a General in the army, and sat for forty-seven years as Member of Parliament for Forfarshire; and, in 1743, was created an Irish Peer, by the titles of Earl Panmure of Forth, and Viscount Maule of Whitechurch, with remainder to heirs male of his own body and to those of his brother, John, but both failing, the title became extinct.

His surviving sister married George, Lord Ramsay, eldest son to the sixth Earl of Dalhousie. He predeceased his father, but left two sons by Lady Jane Maule, who became the seventh and eighth Earls respectively. The latter was father to the late Lord Panmure; and Earl William being a bachelor, made

* *Crawford's Peerage*—PANMURE. The patronage of all these churches, with the superiority of Benvie and Balruthrie, were forfeited by the attainder of 1716, and the kirk of Monifieth is the only one now in the gift of the family.

a settlement in favour of the eighth Earl of Dalhousie, and his second and other sons, through which his late Lordship succeeded on the death of his father in 1782. During his late Lordship's lifetime, Earl William's settlement was challenged in some points by Lieutenant Thomas Maule of the Irish branch (a direct male descendant of Thomas, second brother of the first Earl), but by decision of the Lords of Council and Session, he failed, with some trifling exceptions, to establish his claim. The late Lord was raised to the British Peerage in 1831, by the title of Baron Panmure of Brechin and Navar. He was the twenty-first in succession from the first Sir Peter Maule of Panmure and his wife Christian de Valoniis, and is believed to have been longer in possession of the property than any of his predecessors, having held it for the almost unprecedented period of sixty-four years.

Although he never shone as a public orator, he is uniformly represented by those who knew him during his parliamentary life, to have been a gentleman of shrewd and discerning parts, and one who not only could discuss the politics of the day in private circles with ability and judgment, but possessed a more than ordinary share of active business habits. Still, it is not on his political acquirements that his fame is to depend; but as the liberal landlord—the munificent supporter of the public institutions of Forfarshire—the friend of the poor—and the encourager of genius—he will be known to posterity. It was he who first lent a helping hand to the widow and family of the immortal Burns, to whom he gave fifty pounds a-year, until her eldest son was enabled to provide for her; and also contributed a handsome annuity to the widow of his great prototype, Fox. Niel Gow, and other men of genius, who are long since numbered with their fathers, shared largely of his bounty; and several artists, now in Edinburgh and London, owe their early success almost entirely to him, as do many others who have been, and are yet conspicuous, in the various departments of our civil and military service at home and abroad, and some who are now flourishing in the wide world of commerce.*

His Lordship died on the 13th of April, 1852, in the eighty-

* For a detail of the late Lord Panmure's numerous charities, see the local newspapers published at the time of his death.

second year of his age. By his second wife, who survives, he had no issue; but by the first, who pre-deceased him in 1821, he had a family of three sons and seven daughters. Of the latter, four only survive, and his eldest son, the present peer, was born in 1801. Retiring from the army, he married, in 1831, the Honourable Montague, grand-daughter of Sir Ralph Abercromby, and at the general election of 1835, was returned to Parliament for the county of Perth. He sat for the Elgin district of Burghs from 1838 to 1841, when the electors of the city of Perth invited him to stand as their representative, whom he continued to serve honourably and worthily down to the time of his elevation to the peerage.

He has been long a member of Privy Council, and held the important offices of Under Secretary for the Home Department, and Secretary-at-War, and was also, for a short period, President of the Board of Control. On the death of the Earl of Airlie in 1849, he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Forfarshire, and has ever since taken the deepest interest in the affairs of the county. His second brother, the Honourable Lauderdale, was Colonel of the 79th Highlanders, but on being elected Member of Parliament for his native county at the general election in 1852, he retired from the army, and fills the important office of Surveyor-General of the Ordnance in the present administration; while the youngest brother, the Honourable William Maule, resides on his property in Forfarshire, and is designed, from his principal estate, of Ferne.

SECTION III.

"a deeper import
Lurks in the legend told my infant years
Than lies upon that truth we live to learn."

SCHILLER.

ALTHOUGH Lethnot and Navar are less favoured than Glenesk on the score of extent, and the imposing topographical particular of lofty and rugged mountains, the general aspect of the whole is equally highland, and when travelled in a fine summer day, or viewed from the old British Fort of Caterthun, it has a

singularly sweet and inviting aspect. This is peculiarly the case when seen from the latter position, which embraces an extent of four or five miles, but, like Glenesk, it is almost destitute of trees, for with the exception of the plantation on Nathrow, and a patch of firs at Balfield, there is very little wood, either indigenous or cultivated. Still, the church-deserted tombs of Navar, on the sunny and sloping side of Blairno hill, shaded by a few meagre ashes—the old fashioned half-moon-shaped bridge of Lethnot, with the teacher's "noisy mansion," and other tidy cottages—the kirk and manse—the hamlet of Balfield, where the laborious matron fits her little charge for the varied domestic duties of after life, and where the parish wright and blacksmith drive their useful trades—are the main objects which enliven the natural barrenness of the prospect.

The long imposing hill of Wirran,* which bounds the northern parts, was used in the dark ages of credulity and fanaticism as the burial place of infatuated suicides, and on the very ridge or eerie of the hill numerous grave-shaped hillocks point out the resting places of those luckless beings; and, at no distant date, when a suicide was found dead on one of the farms in the neighbourhood, the farmer, rather than allow the body to be conveyed in at the barn door, had a hole struck out of the front wall for that purpose, and although the hole was built up "ower an' ower again," says our informant, "the biggin' wudna bide, but aye fell out!"

A kettle filled with silver is said to lie in the Craig of Stonyford, on the west side of the mountain, and when the sun shines in full lustre, the *bow* of the kettle, and its precious contents, are often seen to glitter! Many attempts have been made to secure the *pose*, but the "seekers" have all been too sacriligious to be successful; but, if the legend is correct, they have little cause to complain, for alike with the finder of the kettle of gold which is said to be secreted in the well on the hill of Caterthun, the reward is instant removal from this sublunary sphere—constant labour until the world ends—and perpetual wailing thereafter!

The mill of Glascorry lies still farther to the west of the hill, and is famous in local story, as the scene of a poor "melder sifter's" toil on the day of her luckless attack by an wolf. The

* Gael. *Fuaran*, "a spring,"—hence "the hill of springs."

tradition may be briefly told : While the system of thirlage was in its zenith, and no better plan thought of, a servant girl was one day sent to this mill to sift a *melder*, or grinding of corn. The melder being large, she had a long and hard day's work, and was so overpowered by fatigue, that on her way home she lay down on a bank to rest herself, and soon fell asleep. She continued to rest soundly until daybreak, when, to her inexpressible surprise and horror, she found a huge shaggy wolf lying on part of her garment, and perceiving her danger, she quietly extricated herself from the part on which the monster lay, and stealthily fled. On relating her wonderful adventure at home, the alarmed neighbourhood turned out in pursuit of the wolf, whose life had been long sought after because of the destruction which he had committed amongst the flocks in all parts of the glen. He had fled from the place where the girl left him, and the part of her apparel on which he had wreaked his vengeance was found torn to shreds ; but chase being given, he was found nestled on the West Shank of Wirran, and almost instantaneously shot by Robertson of Nathrow. This was the last wolf seen in the district—provincial story says in Scotland ; and whether in imitation of comedy or from fact cannot now be affirmed, but it is said that the adventurous laird of Nathrow ultimately led the poor melder sifter to the hymeneal altar !

The antiquarian peculiarities of Lethnot, and indeed of the united parish, are few and unimportant, and the whole district is equally meagre in traditions regarding the Lindsays and other old proprietors. In the vicinity of Craigendowie, however, among the mass of artificial-looking cairns (which are said to be the graves of warriors), there is a small circle, composed of a quantity of stones about the same size, and ranged in the same manner, as those at Fernybank. Unlike the latter, however, this circle has never been explored, and if as old as prehistoric times, may have been a place of sepulture. Craigendowie has, perhaps, its true etymon in the Gaelic *Craig-an-dudh*, i. e. "the black rock," for the *craig* is an immense black rock close by the river side ; but, according to popular story, it implies the "craig of battle or mischief," and, if any reliance can be had on the fatal doings of the Kelpie in the dark pool beside it, or the

story of warriors having fallen in the neighbourhood,—the latter rendering may not be altogether inapt!

Some twenty years ago, a good specimen of concentric circles stood on the farm of Newbigging, about a mile north of the house, on an elevated part of the mountain; but, of the twenty or thirty large stones which enclosed an area of from fifty to sixty feet, only one remains, the rest having been carried away for various utilitarian purposes. This boulder, which is about eight feet high, is sometimes called the Druidical, but commonly the "Stannin' Stane of Newbiggin'," and many flint arrow heads have been found in its vicinity. When demolished, the middle of the area of the inner circle was found to be filled with small stones to the depth of about three feet, under which lay a quantity of black clammy earth, mixed with pieces of charcoal, while a track about two feet broad, composed of loose red sandstone, laid to the depth of a few inches, ran directly through the clammy earth and pebbles, from side to side of the outer circle. This site is about two miles north of the channel of the West Water, which is the nearest bed of the old red sandstone.

At a short distance from this stone, are the foundations of a square building called the castle of Dennyferne, and traces of several dwellings have from time to time been uprooted in its vicinity, while evidences of ancient tillage are quite distinct in numerous ridge marks. It is said to have been a residence of the Lindsays, and the surrounding cottages to have been occupied by their retainers.

In a place called the Taberan Loan, a large stone, from its peculiar shape, and the tradition that the ladies of Edzell used to rest on it when accompanying their lords on piscatory expeditions, is known as "Lady Eagil's Chair." It is destitute of all traditionary associations; but Cobb's Heugh, a fine romantic part of the West Water (mainly formed by the track of the Burn of Margie), is not so meagre in this respect, being associated with a story regarding an ancestor of Black, the founder of the Gannochy Bridge. This family long tenanted the Mill of Lethnot, and the occupant of the period was a strong athletic person, fully as austere and turbulent in temperament as he was powerful in body; and he and the laird of Edzell having quar-

relled about the rent of the farm, which Black is said to have been dilatory in paying, the laird was so annoyed at him, that he determined to rid himself of the turbulent miller in the most summary manner. Black was accordingly summoned on some pretence to Edzell castle one winter night, and the laird having previously arranged with a person of the name of Cobb to waylay and attack him at the most dangerous part of the road; Black was pounced upon on returning home, when a desperate struggle ensued betwixt him and his antagonist. After much parrying, Black proved victorious, and threw Cobb over the cliff into a deep pool, where his body was found some days after. From this incident the place has been associated with the names of both parties, the high cliff being known as Cobb's Heugh, and the pool as Black's Pot. The fate of Black is not recorded: perhaps he henceforth lived a life of peace, and a "feared" man, as it is certain that his descendants held the same farm for several generations after the time referred to.

Although the springs of Wirran contribute largely to the augmentation of the West Water, by numerous small and seemingly inconsiderable rivulets, its parent stream, and by far the most important of its tributaries, is the Water of Saughs. It arises from the Stoney Loch, on the confines of the parish of Clova, within a mile or two of Loch Wharral, and traverses a rugged and romantic bed, rich in cliffs and grand in desolation, and famous as the scene of the battle between the men of Ferne and the CATERAN, which will be noticed in a subsequent Chapter. Saughs has a number of tributaries, but the burn of Dunscairney is the largest, and, besides, is an important landmark or boundary, being the march for the glen pasture of the Water of Saughs, from which point westward the parish ministers and tenants of Lethnot, Lochlee, and Edzell, have a common right to pasture a certain number of black cattle.* At the union of Saughs with Dunscairney, the river becomes known southward by the common name of the West Water.

From Waterhead this river is augmented by the burns of Calletar and Nathrow, Differan and Paphry, all on the Navar side, and remarkable for the rugged eddying nature of their channels. The associations of none of these burns are worthy

* Decreet Arbitral, recorded in the Probative Writs of Brechin, 17th Oct., 1843.

of notice, except those of the Calletar, and these mainly for the superstitions connected with it,* it being remarkable for having possessed an *adder stone* from time immemorial down to a late period. It is described as being of a greyish colour, pure as marble, with a hole in the centre as big as would freely admit a man's arm, and, in fine sunny days, the white adder sported through and through the hole, followed by a long train of his glistening family or subjects! Adder stones are well known to all "charmers" as a sure preventative against the *ill* which follows the exercise of supernatural agency, and as never failing curatives for bewitched persons and cattle; while the antiquary and collector of curious relics prize them merely as a species of water-worn perforated stones, and from their resemblance to that of Odin, in the Orkneys,† which was held in so high esteem that a promise made beside it, whether of matrimony or of any common business transaction, was considered as binding on the parties promising as had they given their oath.

Nor was the *white adder* less an object of superstition in old times than the perforated stone. Such an animal is said to have been rare; and as his qualities fell little short of those anticipated from the discovery of the philosopher's stone, his acquisition repaid tenfold any toil or trouble which the lucky possessor had undergone in catching him—his great and unique property being the conferring of no less a power than *taibhse*, or the second sight!

The wonderful gift of seeing into the firmly sealed volume of futurity was supposed to be innate in some person; but the "broo" or broth of the *white adder* had the same magical effect on the partaker, as if he had been born heir to the gift. This was the manner in which *Brochdarg*, the celebrated Prophet of the North, was endowed with the marvellous power of diving into futurity, and of knowing the persons who "cast ill"

* Leadbeakie, a farm situated on the banks of Nathrow burn, has so secluded a position, that it has given rise to a rhythmical saying—

"Nae wonder though the maidens o' Leadbeakie are dun,

For three months o' the year they never hae the sun."

† Only one example of this singular sort of memorial has come under our notice. It is the well known boulder called "Kelpie's Needle," which stands in the river Dee, near Dee Castle. It is about four feet above the ordinary rise of the river, and tallies in appearance with the description given of the "Odin Stone," and is named from the resemblance which the perforation bears to the eye of a needle, and from an old superstition, that the river fiend took shelter behind it during floods, and eyed his drowning victims through the orifice!

on their neighbours. Going to the Continent in youth as the servant of a second Sidrophel, he got a *white adder* from his master to boil one day, and was admonished on the pain of his existence not to let a drop of the "broo" touch his tongue. On scalding his fingers, however, he inadvertently thrust them into his mouth as a soothing balm, when he instantly beheld the awful future stretched out before him. Fearing the ire of his master, he fled from his service, and domiciling himself among his native mountains in Aberdeenshire, was consulted by all the bewitched and love-sick swains and maidens far and near, and died an old wealthy carle about eighty years ago !

Another party in the same district, who lived within these forty years, obtained the second sight also from partaking of the "broo" of a *white adder*. This person was much sought after, and on one occasion visited a farm in Lethnot, where many cattle had died in a singularly unaccountable manner, and procuring a white basin full of spring water, he took a round ball, pure and clear as polished steel, which he carried about with him, and dipping it three times into the basin in the name of the Trinity, discovered the likeness of the evil one to the astonished farmer, who in the bewitching jade, beheld the physiognomy of one of his own cottar women ! This *witch* is still remembered by some old residents, and one respectable person assures us that she was as thorough a witch as ever stept, for he himself, for calling her "a witch," one day, while driving one of his father's carts, had a cart full of lime upset three several times within the short space of a mile, and in sight of the weird's residence !

But it would seem, if tradition can be relied upon, that, about the beginning of last century (during the incumbency of the Rev. Mr. Thomson), man's great adversary had enjoyed a kind of respite from his thousand years' captivity, and taken up his abode in the quiet glen of the West Water. 'Twere idle to relate a tithe of the stories yet told of his perambulations, and the various shapes in which he appeared to the minister, as well as to many of his less educated neighbours ; but an instance or two will sufficiently shew the credulity both of the pastor and his flock.

One of these stories is based on a quarrel which took place between the farmer of Witton and a fellow parishioner. Witton

had long a craving to be revenged on his neighbour, and on learning one evening that the object of his hatred was from home, and would not return until a late hour, he went away to meet him. Before departing on his unhallowed expedition, however, his excited appearance, and the unusually late hour, so alarmed his wife, that she tried every means to dissuade him from his journey, and all protestation having failed, she enquired, as a last resort, and in a piteous tone, Who was to bear her company during his absence? To this he answered gruffly, and in a frantic manner—" *The devil if he likes !*"—and immediately went forth on his errand of revenge. So, sure enough, in the course of an hour or two, his Satanic majesty rose from the middle of the earthen floor of the chamber where the poor disconsolate woman sat, and presented himself to her astonished gaze ! Whether he attempted to do her any injury is not related ; but having had presence of mind to put her son, a mere boy, out at a back window for the minister, his reverence and the boy, with some of the neighbours, made way for the house. When within a short distance of it, Mr. Thomson, supposing that he felt the odour of "brimstane smeik," was so impressed with the belief of the *bona fide* presence of Beelzebub, that he retraced his steps to the manse, and arrayed himself in his black gown and linen bands, and taking the Bible in his hand, went boldly forth to vanquish the master fiend ! On entering the ill-fated chamber, he charged the intruder with the Spirit of the Word, when, in the midst of a volume of smoke, and uttering a hideous yell, he shrunk aghast, and passed from view in much the same mysterious way as he had appeared ; and an indentation in the ground floor of the farm house was long pointed out as having been caused by the descent of Satan !

Nor had the sanctity of the manse any effect in deterring this prowling and tormenting emissary. Even there, poor Mr. Thomson was annoyed out of all patience : if he sat down of an evening to write or read, his book or paper soon became a darkened and unseemly mass, and the candle burnt so faintly before him, that he could barely see from one end of his little chamber to the other ; and so bent was his enemy to do him injury, that his last interview with him was attended with disastrous and serious consequences. It was on a dark winter evening—the storm howled

apace—and the snow had previously fallen so plentifully, that great wreaths were blown against the manse and church, and the minister was sitting by the fire writing, when a tremendous gust of wind suddenly shook the house from top to bottom—a peculiar sound was heard in the chimney—and amidst much din and confusion, his tormentor entered the minister's *sanctum sanctorum* in the shape of a large black cat! How he found his way, none could divine, for the minister didn't see him enter, and saw nothing of him save his long hairy fangs, which suddenly extinguished the candle! Running in pursuit, however, he saw him clear the steep and narrow stair which led to the lower flat of the house, and falling from head to foot of it himself, Mr. Thomson was so greatly injured from bruises and fright, that he never fully recovered!*

The facts of such sorry displays of ignorance and credulity as these now told, though absurd in themselves, ought not to be overlooked entirely in delineating the history of a district or a people. They formed at one time a great and permanent part of the belief of the old inhabitants, and were as intimately associated with their nature, as were their domestic customs; and shew as vividly and unmistakeably the ruling passions, and throw as much light on the society of the period, as do the prehistoric remains, and the curious tenures by which old charters shew landed property to have been held.

But apart from these superstitions, the district had also to do with those times

“When tooming faulds, or scouring o’ a glen,
Was ever deemed the deed o’ pretty men.”

An ancestor of the present tenant of Craigendowie (whose forefathers have farmed the same place for upwards of a hundred and seventy years), was reported to be worth money; and the Cateran, believing that the money was stored up in the house,

* Although uniformly ascribed to Mr. Thomson, these stories are scarcely in accordance with his real character, and perhaps belong rightly to some of his weaker-minded predecessors. He was the last Episcopal minister of Lethnot, and being a determined supporter of the rebellion, was deposed, by order of the Government, for praying “for the heads and patriots of the Rebel Army, and that God might cover their heads in the day of battell.” He also prayed “for his Noble Patron the Earle of Panmure, that the Lord might preserve him now when he was Exposed to Danger,” and thanked God for “King James the Eighth’s safe Landing into these his native bounds,” and that “the Army Appearing against Marr’s Army might be defeated,” &c.—*Records of the Presbytery of Brechin*, March 7, 1716.

paid the family a visit on one occasion about midnight. Being refused admittance, they deliberately cut a large tree which grew near the house, and using it as a battering ram, soon succeeded in bursting open the door and walked boldly through the house. They had previously emptied the mill of meal and corn, and laded the farmer's own horses with it, and despatching them and some of his kye, they insisted on having his money. This he peremptorily refused; and with a view to force compliance they set his bare feet over a blazing fire; but finding this as unsuccessful as threats, they seized his wife, and rode off with her at full speed. As the farmer made no resistance, and the gudewife perhaps proved a drag on their progress, they dismissed her at Stonyford, when she returned to Craigendowie with much less injury than had befallen the feet of her inflexible partner !



CHAPTER IV.



Finhaven and Oathlaw.



SECTION I.

"Here they lie had realins and lands,
Who now want strength to stir their hands."

BRACMONT.

THE districts of Finhaven and Oathlaw, are divided from each other by the copious burn of Lemno,* and the kirk stood in the south-east corner of a rising ground, about a mile east of the castle, near the junction of the Lemno and South Esk, and was frequently called the "kirk of Aikenhatt." This name is, perhaps, a corruption of the Gaelic *Achain-ait*, which means "the place of prayer or supplication;" while Finhaven, according to the oldest spelling, which is "Fothnevyin," may have its origin in the same language, since *Fodha-fainn* (the Gaelic *dh* and English *th* being synonymous), signifies a place lying "under a hill or height." The topographical position and aspect, both of the church and district, accord with these renderings; for the old kirk stood immediately under the highest part of the hill, and the whole of the arable land of Finhaven proper lies along the foot of it.

There has been a kirk at Finhaven from the earliest record, it having been *rebuilt* and erected into a Prebend of the Cathedral of Brechin by Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk, in 1380, but the Saint to whom it was dedicated is matter of doubt. A fountain called "Nine-well" is situate on the hill above the old kirk, and some believe this to be a corruption of the name of St. Ninian, who was a favourite over all Scotland; but, as the Nine "virgin dochters of S. Donewalde who lived as in a

* Lemno (vulg. pron. *Lemla*) is perhaps from the Gael. *Leum-na*, i. e. "the small limping or leaping stream," which quite corresponds with the bounding peculiarity of its motion. *Leven-ach*, however, is an old spelling.

hermitage in the Glen of Ogilvy at Glamis" were canonised as the "*Nine Maidens*," perhaps the fountain and kirk had been inscribed to them. Like most of the primitive saints, they were remarkable for industry and humility, and are said to have laboured the ground with their own hands, and to have eaten only once a day, "and then but barley bread and water." Their father died while they were in the Glen of Ogilvy, on which they retired to Abernethy, the Pictish capital, where they had an oratory and some lands assigned them, and were visited in their retirement by Eugen VII. of Scotland, who made them large presents. Their feast is on the 15th of June; and, dying at Abernethy in the early part of the eighth century, they were buried at the foot of a large oak, which was much frequented by pilgrims till the Reformation.*

The walls of the old kirkyard of Finhaven were in existence within these fifty years, as were also a number of tombstones. These have all disappeared, however; but in 1849, when the farmer trenched the graveyard, the floor of the church was laid open, and two ancient monuments were found at a considerable depth. The floor, like those of the cathedral of Kirkwall, and the church of the Holy Trinity at Edinburgh,† was paved with plain square glazed tiles of the three primary colours of red, blue, and yellow, each of them being about six inches square, and one inch thick, and placed in the common diamond form, and had doubtless been the flooring of the church, which was erected in 1380. One of the monuments, which is about three feet high, bears the incised figures of a sword and dagger, resembling those on a stone at the church of Kingoldrum,‡ and the other, which measures five-and-a-half by three feet, bears the rudely incised effigy of a robed ecclesiastic, with his hands in a devotional attitude, and these words engraved around the side of the stone—"hīc . iacet . honorabilis . hīc . . . reherb' . beī hīcaribz . de . fīnaeban . qbi . obīit . 2º . die"—Here the inscription abruptly terminates.

The time of the erection of the *last* kirk of Aikenhatt is unknown, but the plan included a transept and aisle. The aisle was on the north, and had likely been used for the burial of the

* Coll. on Aberdeenshire, vol. i. p. 595-6.

† Wilson's Prehistoric Annals, p. 652.

‡ See Plate XX, of Mr. Chalmers' Sculptured Monuments of Angus, &c.

clergy, or of collateral members of the Lindsay family, for both the monuments alluded to were found within its limits. The manse or rectory, of which traces are occasionally found when tilling the field of Aikenhatt, stood a little south of the kirk; and the first rector with whom we have met, was Dominus Johannes de Monte Alto, brother to the lord of Ferne, and, as "rector ecclesiæ de Fothynevyn" he witnesses his brother's resignation of Brichty in favour of Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk,* on the 20th of December 1379, and in all probability he had been rector at the time of the rebuilding of the church, and the founding of the prebend. From then until the beginning of the sixteenth century his successors are unknown; but at that time the office was held by Henry White, who was also Dean of Brechin; and, in 1532, when the College of Justice was established by King James, he was "ane of the first that wes chosin" to fill the onerous duties of a Lord of Session. He was far advanced in life at the time of his appointment, and had been an active supporter of James IV., for within six years after his installation the King, because "he is of age, and subdite to infirmities," and from his having "done leill and trow seruice to our fader of gude mynde," and to "ws in our tyme," relieved him from his duties, and desired that he should "joiss all priuilege in persoune and gudis and pencioune" as the rest of the council "for lyftyme, sic like as he war dayly present as of before."†

The next parson of Finhaven with whom we have met, was David Lindsay of Pittairlie, who appears soon after the Reformation, as holding both this cure and that of Inverarity. He was a relative of the family of Lindsay-Crawford (in whom the patronage of both churches was long vested), and not only having an ample stipend, but being also tacksman of the teinds of both parishes, he bound himself to supply a reader at each place; and from this period (1576) we have found no mention of Finhaven as a separate parish, nor, as already said, are we aware of the time of its suppression, or of the removal of the church to Oathlaw.

It is supposed that Oathlaw, which is perhaps a corruption of

* Information kindly communicated by Lord Lindsay.

† Haig and Brunton's Acct. of the Senators of the Coll. of Justice, p. 12.

the Gaelic *Auch-law*, or the "field of cairns," was a chaplainry of the church of Finhaven ; but it does not appear in that or in any other character in the ancient *Taxatio* ; but since a well in the neighbourhood bears the significant appellation of " St. Mary," it is probable that a kirk or chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, had been there in old times. In the absence of better authority, it may perhaps not be amiss to date the transference of the kirk of Finhaven to Oathlaw at about the beginning of the seventeenth century, since the oldest tombstone in the graveyard, which belongs to a family of the name of " Fode " or Faddie, bears the date of " 25 Maii 1616." There is no doubt of Oathlaw being the only church in the parish in 1635 ; for at that time, when Lord Kinnoul was retoured in the barony of Finhaven, it was with "*advocatione ecclesiæ de Phinhaven, vocatæ Oathlaw*," and although there is no village or hamlet in the parish, it is possible that the church had been removed to suit the convenience of the bulk of the parishioners ; for the old place of worship was so inconveniently situated, that it lay close on the north-west boundary of Aberlemno parish. The old bell bears the common laudatory motto—" SOLI DEO GLORIA," and the date and initials " 1618 . I. M." but to what pastor these refer, all enquiry has been fruitless, and the bell itself is now estranged from the parish, having been taken to the schoolhouse of Careston, where it is used (though cracked) for assembling the scholars.

The family burial aisle of Finhaven stood on the east side of the old kirk, which was pulled down in 1815 to make way for the present commodious house ; and as Earl Henry of Crawford, who died in 1622, is the only person of the title who is recorded to have been buried here, it is probable that the aisle was erected at, or soon after, the time of his death ; but, the only direct notice of an interment within it is that of the first lady of Carnegy, the murderer of the Earl of Strathmore. She was a daughter of Lundie of that Ilk, and regarding her burial the Parish Register bears, that " the ladie of Finhaven dyed on Sabbath morning, the 20th August 1738, and was buried on Friday thereafter in the Isle."

But the aisle is now gone, and no monumental traces, either of the Lindsays or Carnegys, are visible in the graveyard. The gravestones, though numerous, present few peculiar or generally

interesting mottos, excepting that raised by the late Mr. Raiker (writer of the first Statistical Account of the parish), who, in lamenting the death of his wife, thus transforms the pointed language which "Rare Ben Johnson" uses in his famous monody on the death of the Countess of Pembroke—

"Before Mankind a better Wife shall see,
Time, O Death, will throw a Dart at thee."

Mr. Raiker, who was sixty years minister of the parish, survived his wife five years, and according to his epitaph, he possessed the good qualities of being "a singular and zealous servant of his Divine Master, and *attentive to his own concerns.*"—The stone also bears these lines :—

"Rests before this stone the mortal clay
Of Thomas Raiker, till that awful day
When Christ shall send his angel through the skies,
And to the dead proclaim, Ye sleepers, Rise!
Then may the Saviour to this servant say,
Enjoy a crown through an eternal day."

Mr. Raiker died in 1803, and was succeeded by Messrs. Littlejohn, Cromar, and Stuart the present incumbent; and Raiker's predecessors, so far as ascertained, were Messrs. Allan, Straiton, Grub, Anderson, and Martin. It was not, however, until the time of Mr. Anderson that the Parochial Register was begun, and he soon held a conspicuous part in it himself; for, notwithstanding that the then laird had the credit of being a rebel, the minister seems to have supported the Crown, and to have been almost killed for his loyalty by a band of Jacobite women belonging to his own parish. Whether incited by the laird, as were the rioters at Edzell, is unknown; but five of them fearlessly attacked him one Sunday, and "pulled him out of the pulpit in a violent manner, and forced him to leave off worship and to go out of the church, which he was not allowed to enter again till the rebellion was over."

The matter was investigated by the minister of Ferne and his elder, the famous Ledenhendrie, as a committee for the Presbytery, and the rebellious females having pled guilty, were all ordered to compear before the congregation "covered with white sheets, beginning their compearance at the church door,

and to continue there till the third bell be rung, and worship begun and prayer ended, and thereafter to come into the church and to stand before the pulpit where they attacked the minister, and pulled him out of the pulpit.”* This appears to have had the effect of quelling the people; for during the subsequent outbreak of “forty-five,” nothing is said of the disloyalty of the parish either in tradition or record.



SECTION II.

“A race renown'd of old,
Whose war-cry oft has waked the battle-swell.”

SCOTT'S DON RODERICK.

IF the value or consequence of ancient lands can be judged of from the noble birth of their possessors, or from the part which their old owners enacted in the affairs of the kingdom, those of Finhaven had been of marked consideration, for the whole of its old proprietors were not only men of warlike and intrepid character, but of the highest family connection.

Before noticing its proprietary history, however, it may be observed that a great part of Finhaven was occupied by the Forest of Plater, which was one of the extensive primitive woods that partially survived the hatchet and faggot of a long line of destructive invaders. Apart from the havoc made by the common enemy, these immense tracts of natural wood, which mostly consisted of oaks, were also greatly reduced in old times, from the extent and number of the presents and gifts of timber which Royalty made from them by way of payment and favour, both for warlike services, and for the necessities of religious houses.—The Prior and Canons of Rostinoth, for example, had power from Robert the Bruce to cut wood here at all convenient seasons;† and while Edward held the temporary sway of the kingdom, he directed the keeper of the Forest of Selkirk to deliver, amongst other articles of its produce, no less than sixty oaks to the Bishop of Glasgow,‡ by which means, and subsequently through agricultural improvements, the most of those

* *Par. Reg.*, 1716. † (A.D. 1317)—*Robertson's Index*. ‡ (A.D. 1291)—*Rotuli Scotiæ*, vol. i.

extensive forests were dilapidated. The only other known royal forests in Angus-shire, besides Plater, were those of Kingenny in Monifieth; Kilgerry, in Menmuir, and a part of that of Alyth; and Drymie, in Rescobie, where a royal castle once stood, and where Donald Bane is said to have died. Montreuthmont, of which the Tullochs were made hereditary keepers by Robert I., was also a royal forest,* and several others are supposed to have lain along the Sidlaws.

The extent of none of these forests is now ascertainable, but, according to tradition, that of Plater extended from the South Esk at Finhaven to the hill of Kirriemuir—a distance of at least seven miles as the crow flies, and was so dense, that the wild cat could leap from tree to tree. It also included the hill of Finhaven, and perhaps stretched eastward as far as the river Noran, since the lands which lie betwixt that stream and Finhaven are called *Mark-house*, which, according to the northern dialects, means “the castle in the forest.” The name of Plater is of doubtful origin, and sometimes written *Platone* and *Platon*; and, it may be noticed that the Prior and Canons of Rostinoth, in the time of Alexander III. (long prior to the date of Bruce’s grant), had a right to the tenth of the hay grown in the meadows of this forest.† Four oxengates of *arable* land, or about fifty-two acres, were also given out of it by David II. to Murdoch del Rhynd, for a reddendo or payment to the Crown of a pair of white gloves and two pennies of silver annually;‡ and as this land is described as next adjoining Casse, or Carse, which lies on the south side of Finhaven Hill, it not only shews that Hill to have formed part of the Forest of Plater, but also proves, that amidst those great plantations, and at this early date, agricultural enterprise was not wholly unknown.

Like that of other royal forests, its keepership was an appointment of much importance; and the ruins of what are called the Forester’s House, or sometimes “Lindsay’s Hall,” were traceable about the middle of the muir towards the beginning of

* Original Charter in possession of P. Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar.

† Chalmers’ *Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 791.

‡ (A.D. 1366)—Robertson’s Index. It is said that during the guardianship of the kingdom by Sir Andrew Murray, that he and the Earls of Fife and March abode here for a limited period during the winter of 1336-7, and passing from this to the neighbourhood of Panmure, they routed Lord Montfort, and slew about 4000 of his followers.—We are not aware that either of these circumstances are authenticated.

this century ; and the office, as we shall shortly see, was held, prior to the time of the Lindsays, by some of the most illustrious noblemen of the kingdom.

The first Forester of Plater, of whom any record exists, was Alexander Comyn, the brave Earl of Buchan, who slew Gillescope and his sons for the murder of Thomas of Thirlstane, and who, about 1250, mortified an annual of two silver marks, or nearly two shillings and three pence sterling, out of the lands of Fothnewyn to the monastery of Arbroath.* It is unknown whether the Earl held the lands before this date, nor does it appear whether he was proprietor at the time of his death, which happened in 1288-9.† The next person associated with it is " Philip the Forester," through whose boldness Bruce gained admission to the Castle of Forfar in 1308, while it was strongly garrisoned by the English.‡ This capture was effected by Philip making an escalade under night, when he succeeded in letting down the bridges, and making a passage for the Scots, who put most of the inmates to the sword, while others, in making their escape, were drowned in the loch which surrounded the castle.

It was, perhaps, on the death of Philip, that Bruce gave a grant of Finhaven, and the adjoining lands of Carsegownie, to his natural son Sir Robert,|| who was slain at the battle of Dupplin in 1332 ; but in little more than two years from the date of Sir Robert's entry, these estates were again in other hands, having been granted to one Hew Polayne,§ of the doings of whom, or the history of his family, all record is silent.

William, the famous Earl of Ross, is the next proprietor ; and, for some cause now unknown, a forced resignation of the church and lands was obtained from him, but receiving them back in 1369,¶ he made a free-will resignation during the following year, not only of Finhaven, but of the rest of his property, and was followed in the former by Sir David de Anandia, who resigned his right in 1375. It was at that period, after the lands and Forestership of Finhaven had passed through those various proprietors, that they fell to the family of Lindsay, and, under charter of that date, granted at Scoon by King Robert II., Sir

* Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 266.

† Tytler's Hist. of Scot., vol. i. p. 234.

§ (A.D. 1324) — *Ibid.*

|| Dalrymple's Annals, vol. i. p. 203.

¶ (A.D. 1322) — Robertson's Index.

¶ Reg. Mag. Sigill., p. 665, No. 215.

Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk had the patronage of the church, together with the office of Forester of the Forest of Plater.*

The surname of Polayne, or Paulin, has not occurred to us in our reading as connected with the shire before the time above noticed; but, the Annands were a serviceable and worthy race, and of considerable local standing even before the days of Bruce, for a William de Anaund occurs among the Angus-shire barons, who swore fealty to Edward at Berwick in 1296.† Perhaps the Sir David de Annand who clove the steel-clad English knight and his horse through on the streets of Edinburgh with one fell blow of his ponderous battle axe,‡ was the son of this William, and the immediate progenitor of Sir David of Finhaven. It is certain, however, that whether of the same stock or not, a family of the same name held property in the shire in the following century; for a Patrick Annand is designed of Melgund in the neighbouring parish of Aberlemno in 1478,|| and the surname is still common in the district.

Whether the Earl of Buchan's grant to the monks of Arbroath was confirmed by subsequent proprietors does not appear; but in 1380, and immediately before Sir Alexander Lindsay went on his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, he rebuilt the church, as before intimated, and assembled his family and friends to witness its consecration by Stephen, bishop of the diocese of Brechin, when he erected it into a prebend of that cathedral, where the Rector had a stall in the choir, and said mass for the safe conduct of the noble donor.

It is unknown whether Sir Alexander Lindsay, or any of his predecessors in Finhaven, had a castle or residence there; for no notice of such occurs until after the ennobling of his son, Sir David, who is supposed to have built the first castle; and, so long as the great *Glenesk* branch of the family existed, this was their principal country residence, and here, or in their palace at Dundee, the "Tiger" Earl, and his son the original Duke of Montrose, and most of the other Earls of the Glenesk line of Crawford, first saw the light.

The town residence, or "Lodging," of the Earls of Crawford was situated in Nethergate Street of Dundee, and was so ex-

* Reg. Mag. Sigill., p. 138, No. 68.

† (A.D. 1335)—Tytlers' Hist. of Scot., vol. ii. p. 42.

‡ Ragman Rolls, p. 126.

|| Acta Auditorum, June 4.



tensive, that it stretched from thence south to the river Tay, and being entered by a massive gateway, on which there was a battlement bearing the legend—"David Lord Lindsay, Earl of Crawford"—it had altogether a fine princely appearance.* It is probable that the property on which this palace stood was owned by the first Earl's uncle, "the good Sir James," as he founded a Convent in Dundee for the ransom of Christian Captives from Turkish slavery, which ultimately assumed the character of an hospital, and its revenues, originally "princely magnificent," were enlarged by a gift of the church of Kettins, near Cupar in Angus, from Robert III.

The attachment of the Earls of Crawford to Dundee as a burial place, may have arisen from the circumstance of Sir James' favour for it, or from the interest which they had in the great customs or revenues of the burgh; or, it may have been from the foundation of a church and tower on the rock of Saint Nicholas by the first Earl on his return from the overthrow of Lord Welles at the famous tournament at London Bridge. This rock is said to have been the site of the original church of Dundee, or of that which was founded by the Earl of Huntingdon in fulfilment of a vow which he made while his life was endangered in the crazy prow which landed him here on his return from the holy wars; but all trace of this, as well as of Crawford's church and tower, are gone, and the rock itself is sorrowfully represented by a mere fragment. This, however, was not the place of the Crawford sepulture, it being within the church of the Greyfriars, which stood in the *Houff*, or old burial place; and, from the time of the first Earl, down to that of the demolition of their tombs by the fanatics of the sixteenth century, it was the last cold home of most of the Lords and Ladies of Crawford, including the renowned Earl Beardie, and his son the Duke of Montrose. But, from the period of the sacrilegious breaking down of the fine stone effigies, and Gothic archways and columns, and the scattering of the bones of their ancestors, their future place of interment was within the fine church of St. Mary in the same town, which was completely destroyed by the conflagration of 1841,† and no trace either

* Lives, vol. i. p. 110.

† Vide Thomson's History of Dundee for an account of this burning, and for ecclesiastical and other antiquities.

of the Lindsay residence or burial is now to be found within the bounds of this important and thriving burgh.

The principal incidents of the life of Earl David, the founder of the church and "Lodging" at Dundee, have already been alluded to; and it only requires to be observed, that after enacting those chivalrous feats for which he is so famous in story, and mortifying large sums to various churches, he closed his valorous career in his princely residence of Finhaven, in the month of February 1407, at the early age of forty-one, and, as before noticed, was buried in the family vault at Dundee, beside his royal spouse, Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Robert II.

Little is recorded of his successor beyond the fact of his being a negociator in the affairs of the sister kingdom—a commissioner for the release of James I., and one of the hostages for his ransom in 1423, at which time his annual revenue was estimated at a thousand merks, being far beyond that of any other of the Scottish nobles, with the single exception of the Earl of Moray, whose income and Crawford's were equal.* By his wife, the daughter and heiress of Dunbar of Cockburn, he left a son, whose career, and that of his successor, were perhaps the most remarkable of any other of the representatives of the noble house to which they belonged.

Succeeding his father in 1439, the third Earl became associated with the Earl of Douglas in the well-known league of defence against the allies of the King, and was also the means of ousting Chancellor Crichton and Livingstone; and although the selfishness of the purposes of Crawford and Douglas were apparent to most of their fellow barons, none dared to oppose them, even in the lawless course of plunder and bloodshed which characterised their doings. Bishop Kennedy of St. Andrews, however, had watched the whole proceedings with a scrutinizing dread and patience worthy a patriot and man of genius; and using his influence in behalf of the injured Chancellor, soon incurred the displeasure of Crawford and his followers, who, at the head of a band of reckless vassals and kinsmen harried his lands and burned his granges, and being deaf to all remonstrance, Crawford was excommunicated "with mitre and staff, bell, book, and candle, for a year."† This he treated with contempt;

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. x. p. 307.

† Lives, vol. i. p. 127.

but, as his biographer says, "the sacrilege met with its reward, and within a twelvemonth." This was in the bloody feud which occurred at Arbroath on Sunday, the 13th* of January 1445-6, when Alexander Ogilvy of Inverquharity was chosen by the chapter of the convent to act as chief Justiciar, or judge in civil affairs throughout their regality, in place of the Master of Crawford, whose extravagance had rendered a change necessary.

Crawford determined upon retaining his influential office, and the Ogilvys, equally bent on asserting their right, determined to settle the contest by arms; and "there can be little doubt," says Mr. Tytler, "that the Ogilvys must have sunk under this threatened attack, but that accident gave them a powerful ally in Sir Alexander Seton of Gordon, afterwards Earl of Huntly; who, as he returned from court, happened to lodge for the night at the Castle of Ogilvy, at the moment when this baron was mustering his forces against the meditated assault of Crawford. Seton, although in no way personally interested in the quarrel, found himself, it is said, compelled to assist the Ogilvys, by a rude but ancient custom, which bound the guest to take common part with his host in all dangers which might occur so long as the food eaten under his roof remained in his stomach. With the small train of attendants and friends who accompanied him, he joined the forces of Inverquharity, and proceeding to the town of Arbroath, found the opposite party drawn up in great strength on the outside of the gates. The families thus opposed in mortal defiance to each other, could number among their adherents many of the bravest and most opulent gentlemen in the county, and the two armies exhibited an imposing appearance of armed knights, barbed horses, and embroidered banners. As the combatants, however, approached each other, the Earl of Crawford, who had received information of the intended combat, being anxious to avert it, suddenly appeared on the field, and galloping up between the two lines, was mortally wounded by a soldier, who was enraged at his interference, and ignorant of his rank. The event naturally increased the bitterness of hostility, and the Crawfords, who were assisted by a large party of the vassals of Douglas, infuriated at the loss of their chief, attacked the Ogilvies with a desperation which soon broke their ranks,

* [So given in "Lives." Perhaps the battle was on the 9th, to which the "obitus" of the Earl's death (giving the 17th) nearly agrees with the "week of lingering torture."]

and reduced them to irreclaimable disorder. Such, however, was the gallantry of their resistance, that they were almost entirely cut to pieces; and five hundred men, including many noble barons in Forfar and Angus, were left dead upon the field. Seton himself had nearly paid with his life the penalty of his adherence to the rude usages of the times; and John Forbes of Pitsligo, one of his followers, was slain; nor was the loss which the Ogilvies sustained in the field their worst misfortune; for Lindsay, with his characteristic ferocity, and protected by the authority of Douglas, let loose his army upon their estates; and the flames of their castles, the slaughter of their vassals, the plunder of their property, and the captivity of their wives and children, taught the remotest adherents of the Justiciar of Arbroath how terrible was the vengeance which they had provoked.*

It is also worthy of remark, that from the part borne by a younger brother of the unfortunate Inverquharie in this matter, the house of Clova had its origin. This arose from the fact of Thomas Ogilvy having not only deserted his clan on the occasion, and fought on the Lindsay side, but from his having taken part at an after period in the destruction of the castle of his birth. For this he had a grant of the lands of Clova from Crawford, who was then possessor of them, and thus founded the Clova branch of the Ogilvys, who subsisted in a direct line from the first Thomas for many generations.

Earl David died at Finhaven "after a week of lingering torture," and the sentence of excommunication never having been removed, "no man durst earth him" until it was withdrawn by order of the Bishop who pronounced it. The laird of Inverquharie was taken prisoner and carried to the castle of his antagonist, where he also died of his wounds, or, according to tradition, where he was smothered with a down pillow by his own sister, the Countess of Crawford, out of revenge for the loss of her husband.† It is, perhaps, in reference to this foul transaction, and to the popularity of the Lindsays at the time, that the following couplet refers—

"Ugly you lived, and Ugly you die,
And now in an Ugly place you lie."‡

* Tytler's Hist. of Scot., vol. iv. p. 49, &c.

† Lives, vol. i. p. 130.

‡ *Ugly*, or *Ogly*, which means frightful or abominable, is a well-known pun on the noble surname of Ogilvy. The unfortunate baron of Inverquharie is said to have been buried in

The Lindsay party burned the Conventual church of Arbroath before they left the town, and tradition points out a patch of ground to the north of the Abbey, as “the yettis of Arbrothe,” or the place where the battle began; while the tumuli in the neighbourhood are supposed to mark the graves of those who fell on the occasion. The *melée* was not wholly confined to this point, however, for a detachment of the Ogilvys flying in the direction of Leys, in the parish of Inverkeillor, was surprised by the Lindsays, when the affray was resumed with great violence. The remembrance of this battle was long preserved in the measured strains of rude minstrelsy; but all trace of the rhyme is lost, with the exception of this solitary couplet, which evidently refers to the latter part of the engagement:—

“At the Loan o’ the Leys the play began,
An’ the Lindsays o’er the Ogilvys ran.”

On succeeding to the Earldom, the extravagant Justiciary was ever after known as “The Tiger,” and “Earl Beardie,” because of the ferocity of his temper, and the exuberance of his beard. The league betwixt Douglas and Ross being still in force, was religiously adhered to by all parties; and as the King found that he had unwarily given Douglas too much power, he took the opportunity of his short absence at the court of Rome, and superseded him in his office of Lieutenant-General of the kingdom—burned his castle, and otherwise wasted his lands.

Being apprised of these matters, Douglas hastened his return from Italy, and he and his friends not only determined on resisting all the King’s attempts to suppress their influence, but entered into a conspiracy with the English rebels for his overthrow, and the usurpation of the government. Aware of these proceedings, and determined if possible to bring them to a close, the King invited Douglas to supper at Stirling Castle on the evening of the 13th of February 1452, whither he went on the faith of a safe conduct under the Great Seal. His Majesty led Douglas to a side apartment after supper, and remonstrating with him on his law-the aisle, on the south side of the kirk of Kinnell, the Lords Ogilvy of Airlie having held the lands of Ballishan in that parish (or “the town of the hill,” as the descriptive Gaelic etymon *Balachten* implies), from the Abbey of Arbroath as Bailies thereof. The walls of the aisle were long adorned by the reputed boot and spur of the luckless knight, but the former rotted away, and the latter, which is of great size and has a rowel as big as a crown piece and toothed like a saw, is carefully preserved in the manse, and is perhaps the largest spur ever seen in the locality.

less intrigue, urged him to break the covenant which he held with Crawford and Ross. Though disarmed, and in the midst of his foes, Douglas determinedly refused to comply with James' request, and the King, exclaiming with an oath—"If you will not break this league, I shall!"—struck him to the heart with a dagger. On this Sir Patrick Gray, and several others who were secreted near the fatal chamber, rushed on the unfortunate Earl, and finishing the cold-blooded act of royalty, threw the carcase out at the window into the palace garden, from which time the aperture has been called "Douglas' Window." This murder was signal for open rebellion on the part of Douglas' adherents. His brothers, stung with horror and indignation, proclaimed the King a traitor and a liar at the very gates of his palace, and had the Earl's safe conduct ignominiously dragged at the tail of a horse through the streets of Stirling, and afterwards set the town on fire.

Meanwhile, Crawford was far from unemployed. No sooner had the news of Douglas' murder reached him, than he summoned his kinsmen and vassals throughout Angus, and prepared for a dreadful onset; and the King learning the precarious state of matters, and desirous to cut off all communication betwixt the armies of Douglas and Crawford, commanded Huntly to march southward, while he himself led a powerful army to the north for the purpose of joining him. Crawford, on the other hand, equally anxious to check the progress of the new Lieutenant-General, marshalled a great body of vassals and kinsmen; and, when barely ten miles from his own castle, met his antagonist full in the face, for

"Just as he reach'd the fatal plain,
Where Baliol lost his sway;*
Lord Huntly and the royal train
Appear'd in full array."

Although greatly outnumbered by his opponents, Crawford was undaunted, and the contest began on both sides with the utmost determination. The skill and valour displayed by the rebels were so great, that for long the issue was doubtful, and might have terminated favourably for Crawford, had he not

* This alludes to Baliol's penance, which took place in the kirkyard of Stracathro, on the 7th of July, 1296. He resigned the Crown at Brechin Castle, on the 10th of the same month.—*Frymne.*

incautiously refused to comply with some demands made by Collace of Balnamoon on the battle field.* Collace, who commanded three hundred of the most efficient and best equipped of the rebel forces, immediately threw his whole weight into the balance of royalty, and ere long decided the contest, which, according to all historians, could not otherwise have been accomplished. The fate of the rebels was now sealed—a breach had been made in their ranks; and, unable to withstand the deadly shocks which they were every moment receiving from their antagonists, they fled in dismay. Earl Beardie lost his brother, Sir John of Brechin, the laird of Pitairlie, and several other clansmen and followers; and he himself, flying from the scene of action, reached Finhaven Castle, and calling for a cup of wine, gave utterance to the extraordinary exclamation, that rather than have lost the day, “he wud be content to hang seven years in hell by the breers (eyelashes) o’ the e’e!”

Like the Ogilvy followers at the battle of Arbroath, those of the Lindsays on this occasion were mostly habited in green-coloured uniform, and to this circumstance Beardie is said to have attributed the loss of this field, as the Ogilvys did of Arbroath. From the time of these respective engagements, both families conceived a great dislike to that colour, and the Lindsays considered it so very ominous, that they vowed henceforth, that

“A Lindsay with green
Should never be seen.”

In the bustle and confusion consequent on Beardie’s defeat and flight from the battle field, one of the royalists became so entangled in the train of the fugitive, that he could not possibly extricate himself, and seeing his danger, followed his adversary to his castle. This courageous person was a son of Donald, the thane of Cawdor, who, according to another account, had

* A curious coincidence is told respecting Huntly on the morning of the battle, which contrasts singularly with the story of Beardie and Collace. The victorious Earl, it will be remembered, was himself a Seton by birth, and only succeeded to the estates and titles of Huntly on marrying Elizabeth Gordon, the heiress. In appointing his commanding officers on the morning of the battle of Brechin, he placed his second son, of Gycht, at the head of the Gordon clan, when the laird of Pitlurg, as chief of the Gordons, claimed the leadership. Huntly refused his request, and Pitlurg, drawing himself aside, and taking his black bonnet off his head, waved it aloft, exclaiming,—“A’ that’s come o’ me, follow me!”—when the whole clan deserted Huntly, and rallied round Pitlurg. The Earl immediately submitted, and good humouredly said, “Gentlemen, you have overcome me—I yield it to you! Pitlurg, command the Gordons! And now that you have got the better of me, let me see that you beat Crawford!” —*Old Stat. Acct.*, vol. xi. p. 293.

stolen in disguise to the camp of Earl Beardie, as a spy. All agree, however, that

“ A silver cup he from the table bore ;”

and that before the battle of Brechin he had shewn such a want of bravery that he was branded and stigmatised as a coward ; and, determined to wipe the foul spot from his scutcheon, he performed those prominent and daring exploits which history has ascribed to him. While quaffing the “ blood red wine,” the Tiger and his party were aroused by an alarm of the advance of Huntly, and in the bustle and confusion which followed, Calder succeeded in carrying off the silver drinking cup. This he presented to his chief, as an evidence of his courage in bearding,* as it were, the “ Tiger” in his den, and received an augmentation to his patrimony of Assuanlee, or favours of a similar sort.*

This celebrated cup, which is here figured, measures, exclusive of the figure at the top,† about fifteen inches in height, holds a Scotch pint and two gills. It is now in possession of Mrs. Alexander Gordon, only surviving child of the late Sir Ernest Gordon of Park and Cobairdy, and the history of its acquirement by Sir Ernest’s father is equally curious as the romantic manner in which it is said to have been originally come by :—“ Some years after the ‘ forty-five,’ a party of gentlemen, Jacobites, and all more or less under the ban of Government, ventured to hold a meeting at a small hostelry in Morayshire, between Elgin and Forres. In the course of their *sederunt*, one of their number, Gordon of Cobairdy, got up to mend the fire, and, in doing so saw something at the bottom of the *peat-bunker*, or box for holding the peats, which seemed to glitter. He



* “ Assuanlee was granted to the Calders twelve years before the battle of Brechin.”—*Lives*, vol. i. p. 138.

† The figure on the top is the crest of Gordon of Cobairdy. The woodcut is after a sketch by C. Elphinstone Dalrymple, Esq., kindly communicated by Lord Lindsay.

ished the object out, and found that it was a large and handsome old cup, but perfectly flattened. On enquiry, it turned out that this was the celebrated Cup of Assuanlee, which had been pledged to the landlord of the inn by the Laird, a drinking spendthrift, in security for a debt. Cobairdy, who was a man of considerable taste and a collector of rarities, never lost sight of the cup, but, when opportunity offered, got it into his possession, though he and his family had to pay more than one sum of money which had been raised by Assuanlee on the security of his little-cared-for heir loom. Having passed into Cobairdy's possession, he had it perfectly restored to shape. There are no arms upon it, though one account says that the arms of the Earl of Crawford were upon it, but there is this inscription in the centre of the lid:—‘*Titubantem firmavit Hunt-leus—Breichen, Maii 20 (or 28) 1453,*’—but in characters apparently of the seventeenth century.”*

The battle of Brechin was fought at the Haercairn, about two miles north-east of the city, on the 18th of May 1452. The battle field lies on the confines of the parishes of Brechin and Stracathro, and, although a place of chance selection, was peculiarly adapted for the purpose. Including the flats of Leighton-hill on the south, and those of Pert and Dun on the east, it could not embrace much less than a square of three or four miles; and was in full view of the steeples and mysterious Round Tower of Brechin, and, according to tradition, had been used as a battle field at an earlier date. It may be observed, that the effects of the battle of Brechin, though not immediately decisive in favour of the young King, were ultimately productive of the best consequences to him and his successors.

The place where one of the standards was unfurled is the highest point of the rising ground on the north side of the battle field, where a large rude oblong stone still lies, which is indiscriminately called “Huntly” and “Earl Beardie’s Stone,” and here, it is said, one or other of the chiefs planted his banner. The whole of this height is known by the name of “Huntly Hill,” (so called, doubtless, in honour of the victorious captain), and commands one of the finest views of the lands of Edzell, and of the mountains of Glenesk and Lethnot. Crawford’s chagrin is

* Lives, vol. i. p. 138.

not, therefore, to be wondered at, for although the lands on which the battle was fought were under the superiority of the Bishop of Brechin, Crawford was virtually lord of the whole, being hereditary Constable of that city and Sheriff of Angus; and, besides, wherever he turned his eyes, the lands of his numerous vassals and kinsmen were always before him.

Still, much as Crawford felt the defeat, it was far from restraining his revengeful arm, which was dealing destruction on all sides; for he and his rebellious followers burned Walter Carnegie's Castle of Kinnaird*—ravaged the lands of the traitor Collace—and those of the other Angus barons who had borne arms against him. He was now a denounced, and virtually, a landless outcast—"his lands, life, and goods" were confiscated—his armorial bearings "scraipit out of the book of arms for ever"—and the important Lordship of Brechin, and the hereditary office of Sheriff of Aberdeen, were given to Huntly.

His accomplices, the Earls of Douglas, Murray, and Ormond, were also carrying on like depredations in their districts, and although all of them were summoned before the Parliament at Edinburgh for their murderous and pillaging transactions, the summons was treated so contemptuously, that the King despatched an army to bring them under submission. Douglas, who lacked the determination of purpose, which were the leading characteristics of most of his ancestors, was soon subdued; and, on succeeding thus far, the King made a journey northward in person, accompanied by Bishop Kennedy, the Earl of Huntly, and other advisers, for the purpose of quelling Crawford. The determined spirit which Crawford had shewn in the matter, incited the King so much against him that he not only vowed to disinherit him, but to make the highest stone of his castle the lowest! On being informed of Douglas' submission, however, Crawford finding himself deserted by all save his friends in Angus, wisely relinquished the vain contest, and submitting himself to the royal clemency, was restored to his estates and titles, and henceforth became an attached and steady supporter of the monarchy.

The place where this remarkable scene occurred lies about a mile west of the castle, and has ever since borne the name of Revel Green, and the stone which the King threw from the

* Crawford's Peerage.

battlements was long fixed to the foot of the keep by an iron chain. It is also related, that on the occasion of Beardie's submission, which was made in presence of his fellow rebels of Angus, he made so long and impressive a speech, that in the quaint language of the chronicler, "They held up their hands to the King maist dolorously, crying 'Mercy !' while [till] their sobbing and sighing cuttit their words that almaist their prayers could not be understood ; through the whilk their raise sic ruth and pity amang the company, that nane amaist could contain themselves with tears."* The substance of Earl Beardie's long speech on this occasion is thus briefly summed up in an unpublished local rhyme :—

" But now his pride a humbling figure shews,
And pale, and sad, in sackcloth forth he goes ;
Bends on his knees, and with repentant eyes,
For James' smile, the Tiger Earl cries—
Recounts the time his first of title threw
Lord Welles down, in Richard's kingly view !
Talk'd of the royal blood that filled his veins,
And begg'd in tears his lost and wide domains !—
Soon were they gi'en, and soon the royal host
Join'd Crawford's banquet—drank to Crawford's toast !
But James, still mindful of the vow he made,
(When Crawford's power the rebel force array'd ;)
That his own hand the loftiest stone would throw
Of proud Finhaven to the earth below ;—
And, bounding nimbly to the highest tower,
Where Beardie wont to pass his leisure hour—
Down to the lawn a crazy stone he threw,
And, smiling cried—" Behold, my promise true !"

Providence, however, permitted Earl Beardie to survive the restitution of his house only for a limited period, for in six months thereafter " he tuik the hot fever, and died in the year of God ane thousand, four hundredth, fifty-four years, and was buried with great triumph in the Grey Friars of Dundee, in his forbears' [ancestors'] sepulchre."

* Lindsay of Pitcottie's *Chronicle of Scotland*, quoted in *Lives*, vol. i, p. 142, &c. A curious account of the Battle of Breechin will also be found in a pamphlet entitled "Don, a Poem," first printed in 1655; it has been often reprinted.

SECTION III.

" They rose to power, to wealth, to fame ;
 They gain'd a proud, a deathless name,—
 First in the field—first in the state—
 But, ah ! the giddy tide of fate
 Reflow'd, and swept them from their throne,
 And thus they 'came Misfortune's own !"

* * * * *
 "Twixt truce and war, such sudden change
 Was not infrequent, nor held strange."

EARL BEARDIE left two sons, David and Alexander—the first succeeded as fifth Earl of Crawford, and the latter was the first designed Lindsay of Auchtermenzie, which he inherited through his mother. Earl David being a minor at the decease of his father, was brought up, as before intimated, under the guardianship of his uncle, Sir Walter of Beaufort ; and when only eighteen years of age (it being customary to marry young in those days), he formed a matrimonial alliance with Elizabeth, daughter of the noble house of Hamilton. During the minority of James III., and while the Boyd faction were in power, Crawford was among the earliest to denounce their tyranny towards the King, and to take active steps for his release. In these circumstances, various royal favours were conferred upon him—such as the Keepership of the castle of Berwick—the life-rent of the important Lordship of Brechin and Navar—and the Sheriffship of Angus, with the possession of the stronghold of Broughty at the mouth of the Tay. These were well merited by the Earl, for he ever continued the steady and unflinching supporter of his King ; and, when the sceptre was attempted to be wrested from his hand by his own rebellious son and ambitious accomplices, Crawford raised a regiment of six thousand horsemen, which, together with other two thousand which his influence secured from his kinsman, Lord Lindsay of the Byres, greatly contributed to rout the insurrectionists at the fatal rising at Blackness. For this signal service, he was raised to the dignity of a Duke on the 18th of May, 1488, "to be entitled and designated, in perpetual future times, Duke, hereditary of Montrose, and was the first instance of the rank of Duke having been conferred upon a Scottish subject not of the royal family."

This title was assumed from the borough of Montrose, which, with its castle, customs, and fisheries, and the Lordship of Kinclevin in Perthshire, were erected and incorporated into a regality to be called the Duchy of Montrose, and were held on the tenure of the Duke rendering therefrom a red rose yearly, on the feast of St. John the Baptist.*

Although the newly made Duke lived in princely splendour—having his squires, armour-bearers, chamberlains, chaplains, and a herald (the privileged appendage of royalty)—he was not so intoxicated by the high position which he held as to be unmindful of the interests of his King and country; and, with as great alacrity as before, he raised and commanded a large force of horse and foot at the fatal battle of Sauchieburn, where he was wounded and taken prisoner, and where the King was treacherously killed in a miller's barn by a pretended priest, while lying there wounded by a fall from his horse.† The forfeiture of estates and titles with which the followers of James III. were visited, was very partial in the case of the Duke of Montrose; for, unlike the others, he had no part in the intrigue with the Court of England, and in consequence had his power only curtailed by the loss of the hereditary sheriffship of Forfarshire and the Castle of Broughty, which were given to Lord Gray; while his title of Duke, in terms of the general Rescissory Act of 17th October 1488, was suspended only for a limited period, being restored to him on the 19th of September thereafter.

Although from the time of the King's luckless death, the Duke took little part in the affairs of the kingdom, he became nearly as great a favourite with James IV. as he had been with his father, and is mentioned in the most respectful and honourable manner

* From this time the Duke charged his paternal coat of arms with a red rose in chief, which is still the cognisance of the royal burgh of Montrose. In contradistinction to the Lindsay, or original Dukedom of Montrose, the title of the noble family of Graham (the present Duke) is assumed from "Ald Monros" in the parish of Maryton, which the Grahams had originally from Robert I., and from which they long designed themselves. The patent of the Original Dukedom of Montrose is printed in full in vol. i. p. 486 of "Lives," and the pleas on which the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres (the heir male of the Duke) founds his Claim to the Dukedom (which is now pending before the House of Lords), are—(1.) That the original patent of 18th May, 1488, still exists, and was in no wise affected by the Act Rescissory of October of that year; (2.) That the Duke was never attainted; and (3.) That the second patent of 19th September, 1489, was a grant *de novo* in terms of the original one.—*Orig. Dukedom of Montrose Case*, p. 56, *dec.*

† See Lindsay of Pitscottie's interesting account of the King's murder. It is quoted at pp. 106-68 of vol. i. of "Lives," as from the best and unpublished MS. in possession of Captain Wemyss of Wemyss Castle.

by him in the grant *de novo* of his title;* and, closing his splendid career in peace and honour at his castle of Finhaven in 1495, he was succeeded by his second son John.

Though blest with earthly honour and power greatly beyond any of his predecessors or compeers, the Duke's domestic peace was far from undisturbed, for both his sons were reckless and unprincipled, and sworn enemies to each other; and the elder is said to have fallen by the sword of the younger in a broil which happened betwixt them in 1489,† a circumstance which will be more particularly noticed in a subsequent Chapter. This painful matter lay dormant for the long period of twenty years, and was revived by some of Earl John's enemies, when a re-issue of letters were made "to search the Earl of Crawford for the slaughter of Alexander, Master of Crawford, his brother," and, as neither the Earl nor any of his accomplices attended the "Justice ayre" to which they were summoned, they were all denounced rebels; but in the course of three months, while leading an important division of native horsemen at the bloody field of Flodden, as one of

"Two Earls of an antique race,"

he, and his valiant kinsman, young Walter of Edzell, and many other friends, fell in the rash enterprise of their Sovereign, and thus, by his sudden death, all proceedings were closed against him.

His non-assumption of the title of Duke of Montrose is believed to have arisen from a fear of being charged with the crime of fratricide, for the advancement of his father to the Dukedom had excited the jealousy of most of the nobles, particularly the Douglasses; and, thus aware that its re-assumption would be the signal for his impeachment and conviction, he contented himself with the older title of Earl of Crawford; and, besides, having no surviving issue, he was still less interested.‡ Unfortunately, also, his uncle and successor, Sir Alexander of Auchtermonzie, was placed in much the same position, for, like his brother, the Duke of Montrose, his peace of mind was sadly broken by the almost unparalleled prodigality of his only son, the enormity of whose misdeeds, as already seen, gained him the remarkable sobriquet of the "Wicked" or "Evil Master," and for which he and his issue were excluded from all participation in the titles

* *Orig. Dukedom of Montrose Case*, p. 5.

† *Ibid.*, p. 31.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

and estates of Crawford, and were blotted from the record as if they had never existed.

Under these sad circumstances, as already more fully narrated, the titles and estates of Crawford passed to Sir David Lindsay of Edzell, who subsequently, through the most disinterested and praiseworthy motives, had them restored to the disinherited son of the "Wicked Master," who accordingly succeeded, and married a daughter of Cardinal Beaton.* The marriage was celebrated in the Castle of Finhaven in April 1546 (just a month before the Cardinal's assassination), and her dowery, which amounted to the great sum of four thousand marks, is said to have been the largest ever bestowed on any bride at the period. The Earl, after following a far from commendable course of life (in which his ingratitude to his benefactor, Edzell, is amongst the most glaring and heartless), died in 1574, and was succeeded by his eldest son, David, who was "ane princely man, but a sad spendthrift."

In this Earl, the impetuosity and recklessness of his ancestors seemed to have revived with more than ordinary force; for besides being singularly selfish and proud, he was so utterly destitute of conjugal and parental affection, that although his first wife (who was a daughter of Lord Drummond), brought him the enormous "tocher" of ten thousand marks, he wrongfully impugned her character, and returned her to her family in disgrace, and even denied his own offspring the necessities of food and raiment. Being accessory to the murder of Lord Glamis at Stirling, if not the actual perpetrator, he was committed to prison and arraigned, but for lack of proof was set free; and it is curious to notice, notwithstanding the wildness of his life, that "as he returned through Angus, the inhabitants congratulated him on his freedom." By way of reprisal for this murder, which occurred on the 17th of March 1577-8, the tutor of Glamis, at an after period, killed "the Earl of Crawford's man," for which he had to pay a great fine by way of manbot, or blood money.

Earl David, with his relative Sir Walter Lindsay of Bal-

* Her mother was Mariot Ogilvy (daughter of the first Lord Ogilvy of Airlie), who resided latterly at Melgund Castle, which was built by the Cardinal. He acquired the estate in 1542, and his initials and arms are carved on the lintel of one of the windows; as are those of Mariot on the corbel of the stair in the west tower, and over the west window.

gavies, and other popish friends, bore so conspicuous a part in the Spanish faction of 1588, that he engaged to assist the King of Spain to make himself master of Scotland, for which, with the Earls of Huntly, Errol, and Bothwell, he was tried, and being found guilty of conspiracy, was laid in prison; but a general amnesty being granted to all state prisoners on the marriage of the King with Anne of Denmark, Crawford was set at liberty with the rest, and died soon after. And it is worthy of notice, that he is the only one of his long and noble line of ancestors of whom any trace exists about the old castle of Finhaven.*

Little was to be hoped from Earl David's successor, since the welfare neither of his body nor his soul was matter of any concern to his father; for while he was attending College at St. Andrew's, his "pedagogue" informs the amiable Lord Menmuir that it is "three years since the Master gat any clothing, saif one stand (suit) at the King's beand in our town. I have supplyit thir defects as my poverty and credit could serve,—there is no hope of redress, but either to steal of the town, or sell our insight (furniture), or get some extraordinar help, gif it were possible. Haifing therefore used your Lordship's mediation, [I] thought guid to crave your counsel in this straitness—as it were betwix shame and despair. The Master, beand now become ane man in stature and knowledge, takes this heavily, but patiently, because he is, with this strait handling, in small accompts with his marrows,—yet, praisit be God! above all his equals in learning. We have usit," he adds, "since your Lordship's beand in St. Andrew's, all possible moyen, in all reverence (as we ought) and humility," in dealing with the Earl, "but little or nothing mendit."†

Left an orphan by his mother, and so little cared for by his father, had this Earl been other than reckless, it might well have been deemed a marvel; and, thus, under the guise of extirpating crime, while, in reality, he had the resentment of private animosity and the gratification of a vicious appetite only in view, he joined a band of unprincipled clansmen, who harried the lands and slew the nearest of their kin. It was he who murdered his

* This is a broken stone slab which was picked from the ruins of the castle, and built into the wall of an adjoining house. It bears a shield, charged with the initials and date—"E. D. L. 1593," with the ring, or coronata, of the coronet overtopping the whole.

† Lives, vol. ii. p. 50.

uncle of Balgavies and persecuted Sir David of Edzell, and sought the life of his unfortunate son ; and, amongst other wild transactions, tried to complete the ruin of his family by breaking down the estates.

A succession of desperate and improvident proceedings, however, were happily found good ground for apprehending him, and, by the intervention of his own relations, he was imprisoned in the Castle of Edinburgh, where he closed his miserable life in 1621. From these circumstances, he is designed "The Prodigal," and "Comes Incarceratus;" and dying without male issue, was succeeded by his grand uncle, Sir Henry of Kinfauns and Careston. He left an only child, however, Lady Jean, "an orphan destitute and uncared for, and fated to still deeper debasement, having run away with a common 'jockey with the horn' or public herald, and lived latterly by mendicancy—'a sturdy beggar,' though mindful still of the sphere from which she had fallen, and 'bitterly ashamed.' Shortly after the Restoration, Charles II. granted her a pension of one hundred a-year, 'in consideration of her eminent birth and necessitous condition,' and this probably secured her comfort during the evening of her days."*

On succeeding to the Crawford estates, Earl Henry sold Kinfauns and Charteris Hall (which he had acquired through marriage), with the view, it is said, of paying off the debts incurred on his estates ; but his design never appears to have been put in execution. Like his enlightened contemporary, Sir David of Edzell, he had a peculiar taste for architectural embellishment, and of this the remaining part of the old castle of Careston, which he erected, is an admirable specimen.

Sir Henry only enjoyed the Earldom for two years, having died in 1623, leaving three surviving sons, George, Alexander, and Ludovick—all of whom succeeded as fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth Earls of Crawford. On the death of Earl Ludovick, the titles passed by a new patent obtained in 1644 (through the influence of John Lindsay of the Byres, and to the exclusion of the preferable branches of Spynie, Edzell, and Balcarres), to the Byres family, of which were the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first, and twenty-second Earls. On

* Lives, vol. ii. p. 51.

the death of the last in 1808, the title devolved on Alexander, sixth Earl of Balcarres, as twenty-third Earl of Crawford, whose son is now the head and representative of the Lindsays of Crawford and Glenesk, and the nearest heir male to the original Duke of Montrose.

But of all these the family of Earl Henry only falls within our range, being the last Earl of Crawford who held lands in Angus.* Like many of his relations, Earl George (the eldest son of Earl Henry), joined in the thirty years' war in Germany, and rose to the rank of a Colonel, where he was killed in cold blood in 1633, by a Lieutenant of his own regiment, who, although acquitted by the German Council of War, was arrested by Major-General Leslie, the Governor of Stettin, who had him immediately "shot at a post." Leaving no male issue, the succession devolved on his second brother, also a Colonel, and he having unfortunately become insane, or "frantic," died in close confinement, in 1639,† and was succeeded by his third and youngest brother, Ludovick—the great friend of Charles I., and companion in arms of Montrose, to whom his bravery and generalship was barely second.

Being matter of history, however, a simple enumeration of the principal adventures of Earl Ludovick's life, will only be noticed here—the reader being in this case, as in the others, referred to the interesting notice of him in the "Lives." It was in the Spanish wars that he first exhibited that genius for military tactics which distinguished him through life, having risen to the rank of Colonel; and on succeeding to the Earl-

* By way of connecting the genealogy of the family of Lindsay-Crawford, however, it may be observed, that so far from John Lindsay of the Byres having legitimate claim to the Earldom of Crawford, he was descended from a *younger* brother of Sir Alexander of Glenesk, the latter of whose direct male descendants were all represented at the time of the Byres succession by the houses of Spynie, Edzell, and Balcarres. When the Byres branch failed in the death of George, the twenty-second Earl of Crawford in 1808, his estates were owned by his sister, Lady Mary Lindsay, on whose death in 1834, the fourth Earl of Glasgow (in right of his descent from Margaret, daughter of Earl Patrick of the Byres) succeeded to the estates as eldest heir general. The ancient title of the Earldom of Crawford was then claimed by the sixth Earl of Balcarres (the representative of the disinherited line) and was awarded to his son, the present Earl, on the 11th of August 1848, he being, in consequence, the twenty-fourth Earl of Crawford, and the **PREMIER EARL** on the Union Roll, and heir male and claimant for the dignity and title of the original Dukedom of Montrose. But for a full account of the interesting houses of Balcarres, the Byres, and other branches of the Lindsays, the first of which, as we have seen, was founded by Lord Menmuir, brother to Sir David of Edzell, the reader is referred to the "Lives of the Lindsays," written by the Right Honourable Lord Lindsay, eldest son and heir apparent to the Earldom of Crawford and Balcarres.

† Lives, vol. ii. p. 56.

dom, he became the staunch supporter of his own unfortunate King, throughout the whole of his difficulties. It is believed that "the incident," as it is called in history, was the joint concoction of him and the Marquis of Montrose, by which it was proposed to seize Lords Hamilton, Lanark, and Argyle; and set them on board of ship in Leith harbour, and then to take Edinburgh Castle and set Montrose free—he being a prisoner there at the time. The plot was discovered, however, and Crawford arrested; and it was only through the influence of John of the Byres, on Ludovick consenting to change the succession to the Earldom in his favour, that he obtained his release. This foul transaction was completed on the 15th of January 1642, and in the subsequent August, the Earl joined the royal standard at Nottingham, with a large troop of cavalry which he raised for the King's service. He fought at Edgehill in October thereafter, as also at Lansdown in July 1643, and defeated General Weller while on his way to Oxford. He was also at Newbury and Reading, and cutting his way out of Poole, where he was betrayed, invaded Sussex, and took the castle of Arundel.

Although the royal cause was generally unsuccessful, Crawford's individual exertions were not so; but, being defeated, in common with his fellow royalists, at Marston Moor on the 2nd of July 1644, the excommunication which was passed upon him by the Estates in the previous April, was followed by the forfeiture of his title to Lord Lindsay of the Byres by the illegal Parliament of that period; and, to crown his disappointment, while bravely defending Newcastle in October thereafter, he was taken prisoner, and carried to Edinburgh Castle. Here he remained until the decisive battle of Kilsyth on the 15th of August, when he and other prisoners were released by their leader Montrose,—just in time, however, to witness their total defeat at Philiphaugh.

From that period until the 31st of July 1646, when their army was dissolved at Rattray, near Blairgowrie, Earl Ludovick and his horsemen were frequently quartered in Angus, and committed many serious ravages in the county. Escaping to the Continent, he entered his old service in Spain, and was at Badajoz in June 1649, and two years later was engaged in the tumult of the Fronde at Paris. All subsequent trace of him is

lost, however, "where he ended his career—when or how—there is no authentic evidence; he is said to have died in France in 1652, and it is very probable, for Cardinal de Retz, in mentioning his Scottish allies in that year, makes no mention of their gallant commander; but nothing is certain except the fact that he was dead, and without issue, in 1663—the last of the old original line of the Earls of Crawford."*

Such are a few of the leading characteristics of the lives of the great Earls of Crawford, of the old Glenesk line. Their fall, it will be seen, was mainly owing to the misdoings of the "Prodigal Earl," who had laid the axe so effectually to the root of the noble house which he so unworthily represented, that only three years after his incarceration, his uncle, Earl Henry, was compelled to mortgage the lands to a large amount, which was done, however, with power of redemption to the grantees on payment of the sums advanced.† In 1625, three years after Earl Henry's death, these bonds were uplifted by Lord Spynie (who had been fortunate in the German wars), besides which he gave a sum of fourteen thousand marks to Earl George for the castle, and the "heretabil richt of ye landis and baronie of Phinhewin," of all of which he had possession in the month of April 1630.‡ He only held them, however, for the short space of five years, when they passed for ever from the hands of the Lindsays, being granted by Spynie to his brother-in-law, the second Earl of Kin-noul,|| who was followed by the Earl of Northesk, who dis-poned them in favour of his second son, the Honourable James Carnegy, on the 22nd of May 1672.

Having thus traced the history of this interesting Lordship and its owners, from the earliest period to the decline of the ancient family of Lindsay, we shall now take a view of it from the suc-cession of Carnegy down to the present time, which will em-brace altogether a period of more than six hundred years.

The wife of the first designed Carnegy of Finhaven was Anna Lundin, daughter of Robert Maitland, brother german to John the great Duke of Lauderdale, by his wife Dame Margaret Lundin of the ancient family of that Ilk. Carnegy sat in the Par-

* Lives, vol. ii. p. 79. † Crawford Case. p. 85. ‡ Ibid., p. 88. § Printed Returns.

liament of 1703, and, unlike his nephew of Northesk, was a strong opponent of the Union. He had a family of sons and daughters; one of the latter was married to Lyon of Auchterhouse, a cadet of the noble family of Strathmore, and another to Sir John Ogilvy of Inverquhar. Of the eldest son, Charles, we have learned nothing; but the youngest succeeded his father, with consent of his brother, and had charters of the barony of Finhaven in 1710, and bore a conspicuous, though far from commendable, part in the stirring movements of "the fifteen."

He was at one time an ardent supporter of the Stuarts, and, although admitted as a confidant in their cause, afterwards sided with the Hanoverians, and thus gained so unenviable a notoriety that his conduct has formed the theme of more derogatory Jacobite ditties than one. In the ballad of Sheriffmuir he is represented as "the best flyer" from the field, and is openly impeached in the song which follows as having been bought over by the Government. The latter verse refers to the ejection of the Rev. Mr. Grub, the last Episcopalian minister of Oathlaw; and, since it is recorded that he was "never admitted to the parish by any Church judicatory," it is probable, from the pointed allusion in the ballad, that he had been originally of Carnegie's choice, though he supported the subsequent induction of Mr. Anderson, a Royalist. The song is quaintly entitled

He winna be Guidit by Me.

O heavens, he's ill to be guidit,
His colleagues and he are dividit,
Wi' the court of Hanover he's sidit—

He winna be guidit by me.
They ca'd him their joy and their darling,
Till he took their penny of arling;
But he'll prove as false as Macfarlane:—

He winna be guidit by me.

He was brought south by a merling,
Got a hundred and fifty pounds sterling,
Which will make him bestow the auld carlin:—

He winna be guidit by me.
He's anger'd his goodson and Fintry,
By selling his king and his country,
And put a deep stain on the gentry:—
He'll never be guidit by me.

He's join'd the rebellious club, too,
 That endeavours our peace to disturb, too ;
 He's cheated poor Mr. John Grub, too,
 And he's guilty of simony.
 He broke his promise before, too,
 To Fintry, Auchterhouse, and Strathmore, too ;
 God send him a heavy glengore, too,
 For that is the death he will die.

But the circumstance for which Carnegy is best known, is the murder of the Earl of Strathmore. This unfortunate affair evidently arose, as will be seen by a perusal of the trial,* from the taunts and gibes which he received from Lyon of Brighton anent his ungentlemanly conduct in the cause of the Chevalier. The circumstances attending this murder are briefly these:—On Thursday, the 9th of May 1728, several county gentlemen assembled at Forfar to attend the funeral of a daughter of Carnegy of Lour. After dinner, according to the custom of the times, the company adjourned to an inn, where they liberally regaled themselves until the dusk of the evening. Among these were Charles, the sixth Earl of Strathmore, his kinsman of Brighton, and Carnegy of Finhaven. Being all intoxicated, Brighton first insulted Carnegy by his talk within doors, and on coming to the street, thrust him into the common kennel. Enraged at these proceedings, Carnegy, on recovering himself, ran up to his companions, and making a thrust at Brighton with a drawn sword, it accidentally passed through the body of Strathmore, who was attempting to reconcile the parties, and the wound being fatal, the Earl died on the following Saturday.

Arraigned before the High Court of Justiciary "for the crime of wilful and premeditate murder," Carnegy secured the services of Dundas of Arniston, the future Lord President, and, notwithstanding the able pleading for the Crown by the celebrated Duncan Forbes, who was then Lord Advocate, Dundas succeeded in obtaining a verdict of not guilty for his client. This case is further remarkable as being the first in Scotland in which the power of a jury was established according to ancient practice, which was then questioned, of returning a general verdict of guilt or innocence of the accused, and not merely of determining whether the facts in the indictment were proved or not.

* See the Trial, as given in Arnot's Criminal Trials, 4to, Edin. 1738, pp. 178-191.

In early life, Carnegy married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Bennet of Grubett, by whom he had several daughters—his refusing to consent to the marriage of one of whom with Lord Rosehill, was given by him as the main cause of his quarrel with Brigton. His first wife died in 1738, and he subsequently married Violet Nasmyth, by whom he had his son and heir, and a daughter “called Babie,” or Barbara, who was married to Dr. Sir Alexander Douglas of Glenbervie, son of the compiler of the Scottish Peerage and Baronage.

Carnegy died in 1765, and, with the exception of his son, who died issueless at Lisbon ten years afterwards, he was the last of his race of Finhaven, when the succession devolved on his daughter, Lady Douglas, who, to meet the demands of her brother's creditors, had the lands sold in 1779. They were purchased by the fourth Earl of Aboyne, by whose frugality and industry the ruined estate of his ancestors was restored to its old and important standing, and in 1781 he resigned Finhaven in favour of his son by his second wife, the Honourable Douglas Gordon Hallyburton, who sat long in Parliament for Forfarshire. Hallyburton sold Finhaven in the year 1804, to James Ford, an extensive manufacturer in Montrose. Ford's circumstances having become embarrassed, he went abroad and followed the laborious calling of a teacher, and the estate being exposed for sale in 1817, was bought by the present venerable Marquis of Huntly, then Lord Aboyne, at the price of £65,000, being an advance of no less than £26,000 over the purchase money paid for it by his father in 1779.

Like the affairs of his predecessor, those of the Marquis also became embarrassed, and in the year 1843, Finhaven was purchased from his trustees by those of the late Thomas Gardyne of Middleton, in terms of whose testamentary deed it is now held by his maternal nephew, James Carnegy, W.S., who is designed of Finhaven and Noranside, and who, in the failure of male issue, will be succeeded by his cousin, David Greenhill of Craignathro.

Thomas Gardyne was the last male descendant of the ancient family of Gardyne of that Ilk, who were proprietors in Angus from a remote period, one of whom was married to Lady Janet, daughter of Sir David Lindsay of Edzell. Mr. Carnegy, the

present proprietor, is the great great-grand-nephew of David Carnegy, minister of Farnell and Dean of Brechin, by Helen, daughter of Bishop Lindsay, at whom Jeanie Geddes threw the stool in the High Kirk of Edinburgh, when he was about to read the collects of the Church of England. The Dean was the first Carnegy of Craigo, and descended from Alexander of Cookstone and Unthank,* near Brechin, and was uncle to the first Earls of Southesk and Northesk, so that the present laird of Finhaven is not only related to the old Carnegys of that place, but (Bishop Lindsay being a cadet of the house of Edzell) is also connected with the more ancient and powerful lords of the district—the Earls of Crawford.†

—o—

SECTION IV.

"Those stately towers, those heights sublime,
That mocked the growing tooth of time,
How fair and firm they once did seem,
How fleeting thou, inconstant stream!
Yet time has spared thy changeful tide,
Though ruin wait on all beside."

PERCY.

LIKE the other Castles of the Lindsays in Angus-shire, that of Finhaven is a total ruin, and no idea can now be formed either of the style of its architecture, or of its original extent. In its palmiest days it was a much larger place than Edzell; for thick and continuous foundations of houses are yet found at a distance of two and three hundred yards west and south of the castle; but there are no remains of sculpture having any pretension to the elegance of that at Edzell or Careston. Indeed, with the exception of the turret on the north-east corner, and a few lintels near the centre of the building—which present some simple, but not inelegant, mouldings—no trace of ornamental masonry is now to be seen.

The only initials and date, as already noticed, are those which refer to the eleventh Earl, the father of "the Prodigal," who had perhaps added to, or altered the castle in some way; and we

* *Southesk Family Tree*, in possession of Sir James Carnegy, Bart., according to which *Hercules C.* of Cookstone is a misprint in "Doug. Peerage" for *Alexander*.

† The facts regarding the transmission of the lands of Finhaven from 1672, were obligingly gleaned from the title deeds, and communicated by the present proprietor.

are not aware that any drawing was made of it when entire, or that any description of it exists before that by Mr. Ochterlony, who calls it (*circa* 1682) “a great old house; but now by the industrie of the present laird [the first Carnegy] is made a most excellent house; fine roomes and good furniture, good yards, excellent planting, and enclosures, and avenues.” It fell to ruin during the time of the last Carnegy, and the circumstances attending its dilapidation, though seemingly vague, are uniformly attested as fact.

In opposition to the stories of the old proprietors of Edzell, Melgund, and the Vayne, who are all said to have departed mysteriously one dark evening after supper, leaving the empty dishes on the table, and the lamps in full blaze—the castle of F’nhaven, instead of the people, was the first to give way, and that while the sun was at his meridian. One fine summer day, when Carnegy was from home, his lady had the table spread with the choicest viands awaiting his arrival, and, accompanied by her lap dog, she went along the avenue to meet him; but just as the laird approached the gate, the walls of that part of the house where the table was spread bent in twain, and falling to the ground, threw everything into utter ruin. The event was long supposed to be unaccountable, and, as a matter of course, attributed to supernatural causes; but on the rubbish being cleared away, the catastrophe was found to have arisen from a ground slip, caused by the inundation of the Lemno. Apart from the miraculous escape of the lady, it is said that no lives were lost, save that of her favourite dog, who, being attracted to the spot by the noise, was buried among the ruins.

For military purposes, the position of the castle had been chosen with considerable discernment, being situated in the valley of Strathmore, at the point where that magnificent strath begins to expand, and guards the passes of the highlands through the valleys of the Isla, the Prosen, and the Esk. The site of the castle, however, presents no striking peculiarity. It stands on a rising ground at the junction of the Esk and Lemno, and in old times had been protected on the south by water, as it is at present on the north. From this moat, which rises only twenty feet above the Lemno, the remains of the castle, embracing five stories (including the cellar, or vault), rise to a mean elevation

of eighty-six feet. The north wall is yet entire, but the south one is rent through about two-thirds the length of the building, and on some frosty morning, at no distant date, will inevitably crumble to ashes, whether the latter part of the prophecy of the famous Knight of Erceldon, to whom the following couplet is attributed, be fulfilled or not:—

“ When Finhaven Castle rins to sand,
The world's end is near at hand !”

The north wall is still a substantial and beautiful piece of masonry, and stands as perpendicular as at the period of its erection ; and its apparent strength may, perhaps, have given rise to the above rhyme. A vault or ward occupies the whole length and breadth of the groundfloor of the Keep, to which, like those of Edzell and Invermark, the light is admitted by a few loopholes ; and the old oaken door, filled with big broad-headed nails, is yet entire. The turret, or gunner's room (as the peasantry call it), forms a fine termination to the tall unbroken character of the north-east corner ; and, a strong projecting iron hook near the top of south-east wall, is said to have been the place from which Earl Beardie suspended refractory vassals !

This is the only piece of iron work now remaining, and, as the legend runs, Beardie hanged an unfortunate minstrel upon it for predicting the murder of Earl Douglas, and his own defeat at Brechin. In his wanderings, this harper had got within the private demesne of Finhaven, and in discoursing his mournful tale to the winds, was overheard by Lady Crawford while walking along the banks of the Lemno. Being attracted by his extraordinary rehearsal, she led him into the presence of Beardie, who, on being foretold of the murder of Douglas by the King, and his own defeat, rose in great wrath, and, according to the ballad, exclaimed—

“ ‘ No more of thy tale I shall hear ;
But high on Finhaven thy grey head and lyre
Shall bleach on the point of the spear !”

The Ladie craved pity ; but nane wad he gi'e—
The poor aged minstrel must die ;
And Crawford's ain hand plac'd the grey head and lyre,
On the spikes of the turret sae high.”

The famous Spanish Chesnut, or "Earl Beardie's Tree," as it was commonly termed, is said to have been employed by that notorious personage in a manner similar to that of the iron spikes. It grew in the court-yard of the castle, and was one of the largest trees ever known in the kingdom; and so remarkable alike for the beauty of its grain and its great size, that tables and chairs, and even snuff boxes, made of the wood were in so great demand, that, with the exception of a very small portion still lying at the castle, none of this monster tree remains. This was the "covin-tree" under which the Earls met their visitors, and drank the "stirrup-cup," and was in full bearing down to 1740, when the severe frosts of that year killed it,—still, it withstood the blasts of twenty more winters, but was then levelled to the ground.* Its age is unknown; but tradition affirms that it grew from a chesnut dropped by a Roman soldier; and, on a messenger or gillie being sent from Careston to the Castle of Finhaven, he cut a walking stick from it, and the Earl was so enraged at the sacrilege that he had the offender hanged on a branch of it! The ghost of this luckless person still wanders betwixt Finhaven and Careston, and is the constant attendant of benighted travellers, by some of whom he is minutely described as a lad of about sixteen years of age, without bonnet or shoes, and is known as *Jock Barefoot*! His freaks are curious, and withal inoffensive, and on reaching a certain burn on the road he vanishes from view in a blaze of fire! As if to confirm the story of Beardie still living in the secret chamber of Glamis,—where he is doomed to play cards until the day of judgment,—it is an old prophetic saying, that

" Earl Beardie ne'er will dee
Nor puir Jock Barefoot be set free,
As lang's there grows a chesnut tree !"

It was in the dungeons of Finhaven, as more fully noticed before, that the "Wicked Master" confined his father, the eighth Earl, for the space of thirteen weeks; and from this once magnificent residence most of the family charters were dated, in presence of "a council"—the Earls Crawford, Douglas, and a few other great chiefs, having, alike with monarchy, privy

* The circumference of this tree near the ground was forty-two feet, eight; of the top, thirty-five feet, nine; of one of the largest branches, twenty-three feet.—*Pennant's Tour*.

councils for deliberating over the affairs of their extensive domains. Among the councillors of Crawford were the heads of some of the most ancient and honourable families of Angus—such as Ogilvy of Clova, Fotheringham of Powrie, Durham of Grange, Gardyne of that Ilk, Balbirny of Inverichty, and the ancient family of Lour of that Ilk. These, with Lindsay of the Halch of Tannadyce, the hereditary constable of Finhaven Castle, and Auchenleck of that Ilk, the hereditary armour-bearer, with a Canon of the cathedral of Brechin as chamberlain, and the clergymen of various parishes as their chaplains and clerks—composed the councils of the Earls of Crawford for several successive generations. “Of these consisted the society of the castle, with the Earl and his immediate family—any guests that might be resident with him—the ladies attendant upon his wife and daughters—the pages, of noble or gentle birth, trained up in the castle under his eye as aspirants for chivalry—his own domestic officers, most of them gentlemen of quality.

“The inner life of the family, especially at Finhaven, was of a uniform but enjoyable character—martial exercises, the chase, and the baronial banquet, enlivened by the songs of the minstrel and the quips of the jester, occupied the day; and the evening was whiled away in ‘the playing of the chess, at the tables, in reading of romances, in singing and piping, in harping, and other honest solaces of great pleasance and disport,’—the ladies mingling in the scene throughout, whether in the sports and festivities of the morning, or the pastimes of the evening—though a portion of the day was always spent in their ‘bowers,’ with their attendant maidens, spinning or weaving tapestry. Occasionally, indeed, a higher responsibility devolved upon them—during the absence of the Earl, whether in attendance on the Parliament, or in warfare public or private, his wife became the châtelaine, or keeper of his castle, with full authority to rule his vassals, guide his affairs, and defend his stronghold, if attacked at disadvantage during his absence.”*

It was perhaps with the view of guarding against these surprises that some of the trustiest of their vassals were located in the immediate neighbourhood of the Castle. The nearest resident

* *Lives*, vol. I. p. 113, 114.

of these were the Lindsays of the Haugh of Tannadice, or Barnyards, who, at least from the time of the second Earl down to the middle of the sixteenth century, when David Lindsay died, seized "*de terris de Hauch, cum custodiâ et officio constabularii castri et manerii nostri de Fynnewyne,*" were designed constables of Finhaven. Of this family, which failed in Patrick Lindsay, in 1692, were descended the Lindsays of Little Coull, and those of Glenqueich. The castle of Barnzaird (as it is termed in Monipennie's "*Briefe Description of Scotland*") stood within two miles, as the crow flies, of the castle of Finhaven, and towards the close of last century was represented by two archways in the Haugh, a little north-west of the present farm house, which was built from its ruins. As constables of the castle of Finhaven, the Lindsays of the Haugh witnessed many of the charters of their chief, and "*Philip Lindissay de le Halche*" was one of Crawford's council, by whose *avisement* he renewed the marches and bounds of the lands of the old family of Auchenleck of that Ilk, and was also present at the perambulation of the marches of Ochterlony in 1459.*

The lands of Markhouse, which adjoin those of Finhaven on the east, are supposed to have been a portion of the Forest of Plater, and to have come to the Lindsays in the same manner as the lands of Finhaven. Whether this be the fact or not, it is certain that "*Johannes Lindsay de Markhous,*" who witnesses a resignation of the barony of Finhaven by Earl David of Crawford, to his eldest son, on the 24th of December 1563, is the first proprietor of these lands with whom we have met; and the same person, or perhaps his son "*John Lindsay of M'khous, notarpublie,*" appears in a paper in the Southesk charter chest, of date 1595.†

The site of the old house, or castle, of Markhouse, is still pointed out near the south-east side of the estate; and although nothing tangible exists, either in tradition or record, regarding the Lindsays of Markhouse individually, the lands had once on a time been the scene of some important events, since traces of ancient sepulture have been gathered from various parts of them. At a place called the Haercairn, in the Howmuir wood (almost directly north of the present gate), and at Haerland Faulds,

* Information from Lord Lindsay.

† *Ibid.*

several rude stone coffins and urns, containing human bones, were found about twenty years ago. The urns, which were found at Haerland Faulds, were filled with pieces of charred bones, and although the coffins were carefully built of rude slabs, and of about the ordinary length, and the bottoms laid with baked clay, no trace of bones were found apart from those in the urns. At the Haercairn again, there were no urns, and the remains were confined to the coffins, which were of the same construction as those at the Haerland Faulds. These places are barely three miles east of the camp of Battledykes, and are popularly ascribed to the time of the defeat of the Danes at Aberlemno, and as one of the coffins at the Haercairn was found to be a little longer than any of its fellows, the peasantry soon identified it as that of one of the Deuchars of Ferne, who is said to have been killed at this place by the Danes. This luckless person was of gigantic stature, and is said to have had the rather unique gift of six fingers on each hand and as many toes on each foot!

Apart from the Lindsays of Barnyards and Markhouse on the north side of the Esk, those of Blairfeddan, Woodwray, Balgavies, and Pitscandle, were domiciled on the south. The Blairfeddan family, who subsisted from the time* of John Lindsay (who was a party to the slaughter of Sir John Ogilvy of Inverquharie about 1535-9), till about the middle of the seventeenth century, do not appear to have shone very prominently in any transaction, more than their neighbours and relations of Pitscandle, who were proprietors of that estate down to the first quarter of last century.* The burial place of both these families was at Rescobie, and a monument belonging to the former is built into the outer wall of the church.†

The first recorded Lindsay of Woodwra, or Woodwrayth, (which was previously held by a family of the name of Wellem, or Volume, who paid teinds to the Priory of Restinoth,‡) was Sir John, a son of the tenth Earl of Crawford, and also proprietor of Balinshoe. His "castle" of Woodwray, which was in the immediate vicinity of that of Finhaven, stood a little to the east of the farm house, and was only removed about thirty years ago; but, with the exception of the old dove-cot, nothing of an inde-

* John Lindsay of Pitscandle, an elder — *Par. Reg. of Rescobie*, Feb. 2, 1718.

† See APPENDIX, No. V.

‡ Acta Dom. Concilli, Oct. 23, 1488.

pendent feudal character is now traceable on the property. In clearing out the foundations of this "castle," two sculptured stones were found about six feet in height, and similar to those at Aberlemno, but were removed from the locality, and sent to decorate the grounds of the late "Great Unknown," at Abbotsford. The "grave hill," a little to the east of the site of the castle, is a curious prehistoric remain, similar to those of Fernybank and Colmeallie, in Glenesk, being composed of a ring of rude stones, about a foot in size, surrounding a pit of black earth, from which pieces of old warlike weapons, and burned bones and charcoal, have been gathered.

But, of all the Lindsays of the district, none, perhaps, took a more prominent lead in the affairs of the times, or has so remarkable a history, as Sir Walter of Balgavies. He was third son of David of Edzell, the ninth Earl of Crawford, and, commencing life as a steady friend and supporter of the young King, was appointed a gentleman of the bedchamber, and defended James VI. against the enmity which he had raised to himself through his unfortunate adoption of the Earls of Lennox and Arran as his councillors, in which enterprise Sir Walter was one "of ane voluntary band of young gentlemen who hes subscrivit ane band to serve the king the time of his weirs (wars) upon their awin expenses."* He soon changed his tactics, however, and becoming a convert to catholicism, became one of the most zealous and daring confessors of his time; and, with the aid of an English Jesuit, whom he kept in his castle of Balgavies, he confirmed the Earls of Huntly, Errol, and Angus in "the faith." It is highly probable that the treasonable correspondence with the Court of Spain was concocted within his castle, and partly carried out—a circumstance which long embittered the reign of James, and induced him to undertake his subjugating journey to the north in 1593, during which he wreaked his vengeance on Sir Walter, by almost wholly razing his residence to the foundation.

This castle, which had been moated in old times, was never rebuilt, and the ruins of two of the vaults still top a hillock in the corner of a field; and, with the exception of a mutilated sculpture of the family arms in the manse garden at Aberlemno,

initialed "B," with the motto, "DUM SPIRO SPERO," these ruins are the only traces of this adventurous baron, or his descendants, in the district, and the armorial tablet may have graced their burial place, which had probably been at this church.

Like other of his noble relatives, Sir Walter fell by the hand of one of his own kinsmen, the young and erratic Master of Crawford, in 1605—a circumstance, as has already been shewn, which was the root of a series of bad consequences to the house of Edzell. It may be noticed, that Sir Walter's landed interest was not confined to the lands of Balgavies, or even to the barony, in which were included the Hilton of Guthrie, Langlands, and Innerdovot; but embraced Little Markhouse, and the Haughs, and Cunningair, and other parts of Finhaven, and also Carlungie and Balhungie in the barony of Downie, as well as the barony of Inverarity and the patronage of the church.* In all these he was succeeded by his son David, who died in 1615, from whose son and successor, Walter, the lands passed to other hands in 1630, from which period the Lindsays entirely ceased to have any connection with Balgavies.

It is likely that Sir Walter acquired Balgavies about 1571, as in that year he had a charter from his father of the adjoining property of Kempshill, in the parish of Guthrie; but this property is not to be confounded with the Kemp or Camp Castle, which tradition speaks of as having topt the neighbouring hill of Turin, which is reported to have come to the Lindsays by their taking forcible possession of it from the owner, who is said to have borne the name of Kemp.† This story at best is confused and improbable, and may have arisen from the fact of Sir Walter having been possessor of Balgavies and Kempshill at the same time. Perhaps, however, although all record has been lost, both Balgavies and Kempshill had been places of consideration in old times, and had something to do with the disastrous engagement which occurred here betwixt the Picts and Scots, or during the invasion of the Danes at a later period. At least, the Gaelic origin of the names would imply something of this sort, for *Balgaise* means "the town of bravery and valour," and the name of *Kemp* is associated with that of a Northern deity, remarkable for gigantic stature, and for prowess and valour.

* Printed Retours, 1601, 1606, &c.

† New Stat. Acct. of Forfar, p. 607.

SECTION V.

"Time like an arrow flies, with rapid course,
And states, and empires, 'neath it roll away!
But thou, rare treasure, long hast stood its test,
To please the curious of a modern age."

ANON.

SUCH were the Lindsays of Finhaven, and those who dwelt in the immediate vicinity of the Castle; but of these in other and more distant parts of the shire we shall speak subsequently, and will sum up this Chapter by a brief notice of the prehistoric peculiarities of the district of Finhaven, which are the only points remaining to be noticed.

These consist of the so-called "vitrified fort"—the well-known Roman Camp of Battledykes, and traces of ancient sepulture. Of all these the *vitrified fort*, or *site* (as it is now more generally termed by archæologists, situated on the highest part of the range known as Finhaven Hills, and nearly equi-distant from Brechin and Forfar by the old road), is the most remarkable. The highest point of the hill, on which the *site* stands, is five hundred and seventy-three feet above the level of the South Esk at the castle of Finhaven,* and embraces an extensive range of country on all sides, being well adapted for defensive purposes, or for signal or Beil fires. It also commands a view of the so-called vitrified sites at Greencairn, near Fettercairn, the hill of Garvock in the Mearns, and that of Dunoon in Auchterhouse parish—on all of which traces of vitrification have been observed.

The *site* of Finhaven is a parallelogram, and the southern wall stands within a hundred feet of the perpendicular side of the mountain.† The mean length from the middle part of the east, to that of the west dyke (including the space occupied by the well, which is from seventy to eighty feet across), is from three hun-

* Given in both Stat. Accounts as 1500 feet above the river. For the exact measurement of this hill, and the height of the Castle walls, I am indebted to Mr. G. Stuart, parochial school-master of Oathlaw, who kindly made the measurements for me by the theodolite.

† To prevent all misunderstanding, the reader is requested to bear in mind, that this description of the vitrified site is solely referable to its *present* appearance, as no idea can now be formed of its original state. This is owing to the fact that thousands of cart loads of stones were quarried out of it, and driven away for making roads, and filling drains, &c., and the whole structure might have been cleared away, but for the laudable interference of the late, and present, Mr. Chalmers of Aldbar. It was also quarried towards the close of last century for Pozzuolana, which is said to have been obtained in good quality.

dred and seventy to eighty feet, and about one hundred and twelve feet at broadest. The well, which was once supposed to be the mouth of a volcano (from which the whole vitrified appearances were then said to have originated), together with an entrance, is at the south-west corner, and the whole is surrounded by a wall varying in height from three to ten feet, and not more than twenty feet at broadest.

Unlike the area of the circle of Caterthun, that of Finhaven is very unequal, and seems to have been divided into three compartments, the most westerly of which is exclusively occupied by the well;* while the eastern third slopes suddenly from the east to the depth of from six to eight feet, leaving the middle, or largest third, the highest part of the whole. About fifty feet east, and running parallel with the northern dyke of this *site*, there is another artificial looking work scooped from the side of the mountain. This is divided into two compartments by a low dyke; and, like its fellow, has also a hollow on the west side, having much the appearance of the mouth of a well. The mean breadth of this work from east to west is nearly one hundred and forty feet; and, whether natural or artificial, no traces of vitrification are visible, and its extent from south to north cannot now be defined. The space between the vitrified *site* and this eastern work is the highest peak of the mountain, and, though now planted, appears to have been artificially levelled.

Some attribute the origin of vitrified *sites* to the Picts, but examples of them are found throughout all Scotland. So far as yet known, however, they are peculiar to North Britain, and may have formed a curious feature in the domestic or warlike economy of the ancient inhabitants. They were first brought under notice in the year 1777, by Mr. Williams, the mineral surveyor and engineer of the forfeited estates of Scotland, who published a book on the subject, and at once pronounced them "vitrified forts," and threw out this theory as to their probable construction:—"After the walls were raised to a proper height, and the interstices filled with sand or gravel, great quantities of wood or bog turf, mixed with brushwood, were piled within and

* There is now no water in this well, the shaft having been filled with stones by the late tenant of Bogardo, several of whose sheep were lost by being drowned in it. It is said to have been constructed something like a spiral stair; and was popularly believed to be a subterraneous passage to the old kirk.

without the fort, and over the top of the walls. Upon these combustibles being set on fire, the intense heat would soon produce that vitreous effect upon the trap rock now to be noticed in the ruins of those erections; and the stones would not only be firmly cemented, but have all the appearance of a solid mass."

Since Mr. Williams' time, speculation regarding the origin of these remarkable works have been plentiful, but an epitome of the various theories may suffice. Mr. Anderson of Monksmill supposes that the stones had been piled together, and then cemented by means of pouring a vitrified matter upon the wall. Lord Woodhouselee attributes the vitrified appearance, not to the mode of the erecting of the sites, but to their having been destroyed by fire. But the idea to which most credit is attached, is that of Sir George Mackenzie, who concludes that the vitreous effects had arisen from the frequent lighting of beacon fires upon the same spot; and argues that vitrification is only traceable upon the tops of insulated and connected chains of mountains, and because these signs have all more the appearance of an accidental than an intentional effect.*

This latter remark is peculiarly applicable to the site of Finhaven, where the vitreous traces are all partial, there being sometimes patches to the extent of one, two, three, and even six feet, where no traces of fire are visible; and though rarely found at the lower part of the wall, vitrification is evident throughout many parts of the heart of it, but particularly on the top and sides, to the depth of twelve or more inches. Nor are these confined to the walls or boundary dykes only, but extend to the area of the work, which presents throughout the same partial effects of vitrification. Charred and uncharred pieces of wood are said to have been found in many parts of the scorix, a fact which is still proven by the peculiar appearance of the vacuums where pieces of wood have fallen out by accident or otherwise. In one piece of scorix lately found there was discovered firmly encased the grinder of an animal, which may have been slain, either as a sacrifice to Beil, or to satiate the appetites of the old inhabitants.

The Hill of Finhaven is of the conglomerate, or plumb-pudding species of rock, which is the most fusible of any; but

* *Archæologia Scotica*, vol. iv.

the vitrified walls, though mostly composed of that, contains many traces of free and other kinds of stone, not common to the district; and, as observed by Dr. Jamieson, the stones appear in some instances to have been laid in regular courses, and banded together. The Rev. Mr. White of Selborne* was among the first to notice that heat caused sand to flux, and thereby furnished a key to the various theories regarding the causes of vitrification on mountains. But, the most elaborate notices on the fusible nature of stone, and of the probable origin of these sites, is by Dr. Wilson,† who agrees with Sir George Mackenzie in believing the vitreous effects to have been caused by the frequent lighting of beacon fires on the same spot.

The value of enquiring into the origin of these remarkable structures is, obviously, the light which the discovery of their formation and use would throw on the ancient manners of our forefathers. As yet, however, these are as mysterious as ever to archæologists, though the inexhaustible treasury of popular tradition asserts that this "fort" is merely the ruins of the original castle of Finhaven, which never reached beyond the foundations, because of a demoniacal power overturning at night what was erected during the day! A nocturnal watch was accordingly set to detect the felon; but the watches were almost frightened to death, when, about midnight, a fiendish voice exclaimed, from amidst the din of tumbling walls—

*"Found-even down into the bog,
Where 'twill neither shake nor shog!"*

The hint was taken—operations were instantly stopped on the hill and commenced in the valley, and the luckless foundations left to puzzle the curious; and the couplet (double-headed as such affairs generally are), also conferred the distinctive name on the district!

The boundary of the Roman Camp at Battledykes is not now traceable; but it was so in the time of Maitland,‡ and for long after, and measured two thousand nine hundred and seventy feet by one thousand eight hundred and fifty; and, apart from the Camp of Redykes at Fetteresso, in the Mearns (where General Roy

* Natural Hist. of Selborne, Letter IV.

† Prehistoric Annals, p. 418, &c.

‡ William Maitland, author of a History of Scotland, and other works, was the first to discover Roman traces north of the Tay. He was born at Brechin in 1693, and died at Montrose in 1757, leaving a fortune of £10,000.

supposes the battle of the Grampians to have been fought), that of Battle-dykes is not only the largest in the district, but nearly two-thirds greater than that of Ardoch in Perthshire. It is believed that this camp was employed by Agricola in the year 81, and connected with those of Ardoch and Grassy-walls by a Roman road, which passed through the south-eastern part of Angus-shire, and from thence to Rae-dykes, by the camps of Keithock, near Brechin, and Fordoun in the Mearns. In corroboration of this, when General Roy made his survey of the Roman camps throughout Scotland, he says, in reference to that of Battle-dykes:—"It appears to me to be one of the most entire of the kind hitherto discovered; at the same time that the similarity of its figure and dimensions prove indisputably that it held the same army formerly encamped at Ardoch and Grassy-walls."*

It is also worthy of remark, that the names of some of the the places in the district of Finhaven are curious. These are the King's Palace, the King's Seat, and the King's Bourne—all of which are on the farm of Battle-dykes, and within the limits of the Roman Camp, and, perhaps, refers to the time when the lands were in the hands of royalty. At the King's Palace, six clay urns were found about twenty years ago, but nothing is preserved of the style of their manufacture. At the same place, about six hundred cart loads of stones were taken away for building purposes, and it is supposed that nearly as many more are still there; and as stones are comparatively scarce on the adjoining ground, it is probable that those which composed the "palace" had been gathered from these parts.

Stone coffins with human remains have been found throughout the whole district. Three of these were exhumed some years ago in the hillock adjoining the dove-cot, and were all composed of rude stone flags, and about four feet and a half long, with the heads lying towards the east, while one of them contained the additional and interesting relic of a large *iron spur*, which was unfortunately carried off by the workmen, and

* In reference to the Camp of Rae-dykes, General Roy says, "In this neighbourhood we are to look for the scene of the celebrated battle [*Mons Grampius*]; for, the nature of the country seems to point out that the Caledonians would take post on the Grampian Mountains towards their eastern extremity, where the plain becomes narrow, from the near approach of that lofty range to the sea."—*Military Antiquities*, pp. 85, 86, 87.

lost. But the most important of these discoveries was that of a solitary coffin, found near the Gallow path-road, in the neighbourhood of St. Mary's Well in Oathlaw, in which, along with human remains, there was a large *gold ring* or *chain*, which, from its position in the coffin, is supposed to have been the necklace of the person interred.* Although all enquiry has been fruitless regarding the custodier of this ring, it is said to be still in the district, and, being described as a thin twisted hoop, is perhaps of a construction and age similar to the Largo and Rannach Armilla.†

* Information from Mr. George Stuart, Parochial Schoolmaster.

† See Wilson's Prehistoric Annals, pp. 321, 324.



FINHAVEN CASTLE.

CHAPTER V.

Ferne.

SECTION I.

" The kirk an' kirkyard on the hillock sae green,
Where friends an' gude neebors on Sundays convene."

" The district is further remarkable as the birthplace of men of genius."

THE church of Ferne was situate within the diocese of Dunkeld, but history is silent as to the name of its donor and the period of its gift. A piece of land, consisting of about five acres Scots measurement, a little east of the kirk, is called "Dunkeld rigs," and sometimes abbreviated into *Dun's rigs*. There is no fountain in the immediate vicinity of the kirk bearing the name of any saint; but at Wellford, about a mile to the south-west, a spring is called *St. Innen's*, which is probably a corruption of the name of St. Ninian, the apostle of the Picts, to whom, in Romish times, the kirk may have been inscribed, for no field or knoll near Wellford bears any name which would lead one to suppose that a chapel had ever stood there, though within the last half century there were two or three large rude boulders near by, which were called Druidical stones.

The first parson of Ferne of whom we have found any record, was Thomas Hamilton, who officiated towards the close of the fifteenth century, and having his stipend very irregularly paid by the tacksmen of the teinds, he raised an action against them before the Lords of Council, who were pleased to ratify his claim. As the names of the renters of the teinds, and the amount paid from certain of the lands are given in detail, the facts may be quoted for the purpose of shewing the amount of these at the early period referred to.—John of Fotheringham was charged "xii merkis and thre wedderis" for Auchinloch, and the third part of Bochquharne; John of Ferne, "iv merkis, or ellis half a chaldar of vitale," for the Mill of Ferne; and David

Lindesay, and Paule of Fentoune (? of Ogil), "viii merkis, ii wedderis, and a Scottis bow, the price of the bow x s, for the teyndis of Duchre."*

The parishes of Ferne, Menmuir, and Kinnell, were under the charge of one minister after the Reformation, for the serving of all of which he had little more than eleven pounds sterling. The minister of the period was James Melville (fifth brother of the celebrated Andrew), whose father was laird of the small estate of Dysart, near Montrose, and had in all nine sons, of whom Andrew was the youngest.† Thomas Schevand, the contemporary reader of Ferne with Mr. Melville, had a yearly salary of about thirty-three shillings sterling; but, at a subsequent period (the exact date of which is unknown) the reader's stipend was augmented by a "Lady Lindsay" to the extent of eight bolls of meal, which was converted into money about the beginning of this century; and, not unmindful of the poor, the same charitable person also mortified an annual of two-and-a-half bolls of meal to them.

A Mr. Cramond was minister in Ochterlony's time; and his successor, Mr. James Watson, the last Episcopal minister, taking part with the Earl of Southesk in the rebellion of "fifteen," was deposed "for praying for the Pretender under the name of King James the Eighth," and for keeping "the fast and thanksgiving appointed by the rebels;" and his coadjutor, the schoolmaster, joining in the same cause, was also deposed about the same time. The old part of the present manse was erected during Mr. Watson's incumbency, and a stone dated 1702, and initialed "E.I.S." (Earl James of Southesk), is still in the wall. Mr. George Wemyss, a determined friend to the Hanoverian family, supplanted Mr. Watson, and was followed in turn by his son, who, being translated to Errol, in Perthshire, was succeeded by Mr. George Tytler, a native of Aberdeenshire. And, it may be remarked, that although little attention has been paid for

* Acta Dom. Concil., Oct 26, 1488.

† This eminent reformer is commonly called a son of Richard Melville of Baldovie, and one of nine brothers who followed the ministry. This, however, is a mistake, his father being John Melville of Dysart, and the *Richard* alluded to his second brother. Besides Richard and Andrew, John's other sons were, Thomas, "secretar deput of Scotland;" Walter, burgess and baillie of Montrose; Rogor, burgess of Dundee; James, minister, first at Ferne, and then at Arbroath; John, the contemporary reader at Maryton with his brother Richard, who was minister there; and Robert and David, who were both "craftsmen."—See *James Melville's Diary*.

long to parochial registrations, it appears from a curious dispute which occurred between Mr. Tytler and John Dildarg, or Dundas (the schoolmaster *pro tempore*), that at and before the year 1778, these were better attended to, since the keeping of these was one of the reasons which induced Mr. Tytler to employ Dildarg.

Still, these Registers throw extremely little light either on the history of Mr. Tytler, or his predecessors; but as the father of James and Dr. Henry William, both of whom were famous in literature, Mr. Tytler's name has a more than ordinary interest. But, it may be inferred, from the curious dispute which arose betwixt him and Dildarg about "the unlawfulness of blood-eating," that, although men of learning and genius, both sons inherited much of the eccentricity of their parent.* The eldest, James, was compiler of the greater part of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and many other works of acknowledged merit; but being an unsuccessful rival of Montgolfier and Lunardi, he is best known by the sobriquet of *Balloon*. In addition to his scientific writings, he was author of the well-known Scottish songs of "The Bonnie Bruiket Lassie," "Loch Erroch-side," "I canna come ilka day to woo," and several others. He married young, and being ill-requited for his literary labours, his life was a continued struggle with poverty. Naturally liberal in politics, and fond of novelty, he joined in the reforming movement of the times, and made himself so conspicuous by his pen and otherwise, that but for the prompt interference of his friends, who sent him to America, he might have had a like fate as Baird and Hardie. Tytler died in the town of Salem, New England, in 1805, where he had conducted a newspaper from the time of his arrival there.†

His brother, who is famous as the first Scotsman who published a translation of the Greek classics, was bred a surgeon, and married a sister of the historian Gillies. He began life as a practitioner in Brechin, but finding little encouragement there, he went to India, and on his return, published some original poems, amongst which was a "Voyage from the Cape of Good Hope," and died at Edinburgh in 1808. He was known as an author

* See APPENDIX No. VI., for an epitome of the dispute alluded to.

† For many interesting particulars of the chequered life of this extraordinary person, see a biographical notice of him, published at Edinburgh, in 1805.

long previous to the publication of these poems, however, for, while labouring under severe mental distress (and not after his death, as several biographers state), Dr. John Gillies, his brother-in-law, superintended "Callimachus" through the press, and the book appeared in 1793, with a preface by the Earl of Buchan, in which that nobleman compares himself to Sir Philip Sidney, "in whom every compatriot of extraordinary merit found a friend without hire, and a common rendezvous of worth" !

Happily the cloud which hung over Tytler's mind was merely temporary, and about four years after the publication of "Callimachus," he issued "Pædotrophia, or the Art of Nursing and Rearing Children," from the Latin of Scevole de St. Marthe, enriched with valuable medical and historical notes. In the poetical dedication of this book (which extends over thirty-five pages), he thus feelingly alludes to the Earl of Buchan's kindness to him during his illness, and to his own pre-eminent position as the first Scottish translator of the Greek poets :—

"With health, with ease, with sacred friendship blest,
The friendship of a virtuous heart, and good,
More dear to mine than treasures of the proud,
Let me attempt the heights desir'd before,
Unlock now ancient, now the modern lore,
And happy that the first of Scotian swains
I taught a Grecian poet English strains,
Still court the Nine, secure of lasting praise,
If BUCHAN favour and approve my lays."

Apart from the interesting fact of the Manse of Ferne being the birthplace of those two eminent men, the vicinity has other attractions, in so far as the kirk is beautifully situated on an isolated hillock in the middle of a romantic den, which, although now rendered lovely by the attention which the present venerable minister and his family have bestowed upon it, was an uncultivated wild at the beginning of this century, shaded only with brushwood, among which the hazel and the arn, or alder, predominated. The latter still abounds throughout the parish, particularly on the banks of the Noran ; and as *fern* is the Gaelic name of "the alder," perhaps the cognomen of the parish was assumed from the plentifulness of that tree in the district.

The old church stood more in the middle of the graveyard than the present, which was built in 1806 ; and, as if to support

the story of Cardinal Beaton's connection with the castle of the Vayne (which will be fully noticed in a subsequent Section), it has long been reported that he not only presented the bell to the church, but that it bore his name and the year of his birth; and having had two bells made in Holland at the same time, he gifted the other to the church of Aberlemno, in which parish, his castle of Melgund was situated! So far, however, from these stories being veritable, the date of the Ferne bell, it will be seen, refers to a period of twelve years later than that of Beaton's birth, and merely to the era of its fabrication, at which time the barony was in the hands of the Lindsays of Edzell, as vassals of the Earls of Crawford. The following is the legend:—

"IC BEN GHEGOTEN INT IAER MCCCCVI."*

The gravestones in the churchyard are numerous, and although some of them bear "uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculptures," few are so peculiarly interesting as to warrant their being quoted. The following, however, which appears on a stone erected to the memory of a farmer who died within the last ten years, may be cited as an example of the way in which the peculiarities of worldly employments are rendered subservient to the caprice of mortuary rhymsters:—

"Death daily walks his active round,
On Time's uncertain stage;
He breaks up every fallow ground—
Spares neither sex nor age."

The best monument is a fine granite slab which marks the grave of the late Thomas Binny, proprietor of Ferne, who died on the 5th of March 1845. The burial place of the family of Gall, who were some time proprietors of the small estate of Auchnacree; and that of Deuchar of that Ilk (which records the decease of the penultimate laird and lady of that name, who died respectively in the years 1802 and 1823), are also pointed out by respectable freestone memorials; but of the graves of the families of de Montealto and Lindsay—the ancient superiors of the whole district—no trace is now visible.

* &c. "I was made in the year 1506." [Nothing is known of an older bell at Aberlemno than the present, though there had doubtless been one. That now in use bears:—"THE BELL OF ABERLEMNO. ROBERTVS. MAXWELL. ME. FECIT. EDR. 1728."]

SECTION II.

"Though in their day a violent band
As ever waved the deadly brand;
And good to kirk as well as king,
They're now a lost, forgotten thing."

No record of any proprietor of the barony or lands of Ferne is known prior to the time of William the Lion, by whom they were gifted to a family bearing the surname of Montealto, now metamorphosed into that of *Mowat*—a name by no means uncommon in Angus at the present time, though not in a proprietary relation. Mention of the family first occurs during the reign of David I., when Robert de Montealto witnesses several of that king's charters; but they were first settled in the south, and assumed their surname from a place in Flintshire.* William de Montealto, knight, gave an annual of a stone of wax, and four shillings to the monks of Coupar from his lordship of Ferne,† and is a witness to the celebrated perambulation of marches which took place betwixt the Abbey lands of Arbroath and those of Kinblethmont.‡

Besides the lordship of Ferne, the Montealtos were proprietors of Both, in the parish of Carmyllie, and Abbot Adam of Arbroath became bound to William de Montealto, the son of Michael, to support a chaplain at the chapel of Both;|| or, in other words, became patron of that church, which was afterwards given by William Maule of Panmure to the cathedral of Brechin.§ Michael de Montealto was one of the Justiciaries of Scotland proper in 1242, and his son Bernard, and Abbot William of Balmerino, were among the many persons of distinction who were drowned on returning from the court of Norway in 1281, after witnessing the celebration of the nuptials of Margaret, daughter of Alexander III., with King Eric¶—a catastrophe which gave rise to the fine old ballad of "Sir Patrick Spens"—

"Half ower, half ower to Aberdour,
Full fifty fathoms deep,
There lies the gude Sir Patrick Spens,
And the Scots lords at his feet."

* Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. i.

† *Ibid.*

‡ (A.D. 1219)—Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 162.

|| (A.D. 1250)—*Ibid.*, p. 189.

§ Robertson's Index.

¶ Tytler's Hist. of Scot., vol. i. p. 48.

William de Montealto was present at the celebrated convention held within the monastery of Arbroath, on the 6th of April 1320, and subscribed the spirited remonstrance to Pope John XXII, which is supposed to have been framed by Abbot Bernard, asserting the Independence of Scotland. In 1322, William de Montealto of Kinblethmont, gave a charter of the lands of Brechin to Sir Gilbert de Haya of Errol;* and on the resignation of John de Haya, Dominus de Tulybothevyle, de Montalto had charters of the lands of Brichty, in the parish of Murroes, which were given by Richard de Montealto in the year 1379 to Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk.† This Richard was Chancellor of the Cathedral of Brechin; and, in the same year, resigned the barony of Inverlunan in favour of Alexander Stuart, the King's son by Marion de Cardny—a resignation which took place at Dundee, from the customs of which burgh, Montealto at the same period had a pension of twenty pounds.‡

Two years prior to this date, however, Richard resigned all claim to the barony of Ferne in favour of his son, William, whose charters of the lands were confirmed at the Abbey of Coupar, by Robert II.§ and, as before noticed, a younger son was rector of the kirk of Finhaven, in the lifetime of Sir Alexander of Glenesk, and a witness to the charter of Brichty. Richard was alive in 1383, as his surname (changed for the first time into the modern form of Movat, or Mowat).recurs in connection with the barony of Lunan.|| John is the last of the Mōwats whom we have found connected with Ferne, he having had charters of Sandyford (now Shandford) from Robert III.;¶ and from this period until about 1450, there is a hiatus in the proprietary history of Ferne which we are unable to supply.

The surname of this once powerful family is now unknown in the district; but it is curious to observe, that a place still called "Mowat's Seat," or "Mowat's Cairn," is situate on the hill of Bruff Shank; and, although popularly associated with the deeds of a Cateran of the name of Mowat, there is good reason to conclude that it refers exclusively to the ancient lords of the district, and is the only positive evidence of their occupancy in the parish.

* Robertson's Index.

‡ Registrum Mag. Sigillii.

† Information by Lord Lindsay.

|| Robertson's Index.

‡ Robertson's Index.

¶ *Ibid.*

Perhaps the barony of Ferne had been resigned to Lindsay of Glenesk at the same time as Brichty, to whose descendants Sandyford may have fallen on the death of John Mowat. Be this as it may, these lands were in possession of the Earls of Crawford sometime before 1450 ; for in that year Sir Walter of Beaufort obtained them from his nephew, the fifth Earl, afterwards Duke of Montrose, in exchange for his patrimony of Strathnairn in Inverness-shire, which the first Earl acquired by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Robert II.

From the period of Montealto's resignation of Ferne, it was always held under the superiority of the Earls of Crawford, although, at the time of Sir Walter of Edzell's succession, and that of his son Sir David, it formed part of the Edzell barony, and, along with Vayne, was given to Sir Walter's second son, Alexander, by his second wife, by whose descendants the lesser estates of Balquhadlie and Balquharn were subsequently held ; and the Lindsays of both places were concerned with their cousin, Sir David of Edzell, in the slaughter of Campbell of Lundy. North of the church, on the hill of Drummorie, a place is still pointed out as that where a " Lady Lindsay " (perhaps the Countess of the ninth Earl of Crawford) met her tenants and collected her rents, and some earthen benches are pointed out as those on which the tenantry sat on these occasions.

The estate of Deuchar was also under the superiority of the lords of Ferne, as was the whole parish ; and from earliest record, this small property was occupied by a family who designed themselves " of that Ilk " down to the late period of 1815, when their male representative became insolvent, and selling the lands, left this country for Australia. Although merely vassals, the Deuchars were considered the oldest family in the shire ; and tradition says that the first of them had a gift of Deuchar so early as the commencement of the eleventh century, for killing a wild boar at the pass across the Noran, now known as Coortford, or Coorthill Bridge ; and from this tradition, in all probability, the sword and boar's head were assumed as family bearings.

This origin of the Deuchars is quite in accordance with that related of the Hays and the Keiths, and many other old families ; and, as the story is referable to a period anterior to the date of our national records, it is probable, if documentary

evidence could be brought to bear on the point, that the killing of the wild boar at Coortford would have as little foundation in fact as the vanquishing of the Danes by the Hays, and the gift of Errol for their trouble—all of which have been satisfactorily proven, by recent investigation, to be based on mere fancy, notwithstanding that the coat-armorial of Hay, as that of Deuchar, preserves the salient points of the tradition.*

It is also said that Deuchar of that Ilk was a companion in arms with Keith at the battle of Barry in 1010; and, although a person of gigantic form, and endowed with almost supernatural strength (having had six fingers on each hand, and as many toes on each foot!) he fell by the sword of some of the Northmen, of whom he had gone in pursuit. Another representative of the family named William (who married a daughter of “the stalwart laird of Lawriestoun”), was among the minor barons who fell at Harlaw in 1410. Unlike his father-in-law, neither his name nor fate have been specially preserved in general history; but family tradition records that when his attendant found him on the battle field, his hand was so firmly clasped in his sword hilt that it could not be wrested from it; and “knowing that the sword was an old relic in the family and in high esteem, the servant cut the hand off by the wrist, and brought all home with him,” as the too true evidence of his master’s fate, and the unmistakable signs of his valour.

The sword was long preserved in the family archives, but a feud breaking out between the old lords of Ogil and a descendant of the hero of Harlaw, the latter brought the “family relic” to his service; but, instead of its achieving the victory which he anticipated, he was overpowered, and the conqueror taking the weapon from him, had it curtailed some inches to suit his own diminutive stature! It was ultimately restored to the family on certain submissive grounds, and is reputed to be the same weapon which “cut off the boar’s head,” at Coortford, and committed so great slaughter at Harlaw. Apart from these stories, however, the following inscription (which is cut upon it in comparatively modern characters), imparts the additional par-

* The first of the Hays came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, and a descendant, William de Hays, was the first of the family who had Errol, of which he had charters betwixt 1178 and 1188—160 years, at least, subsequent to the time ascribed by tradition.—*Douglas Peerage*, by Wood.—ERROL.

ticular of its having been employed in the wars of the Independence :—

“ *Da . Deubghyre . his . swerde .
At . Wannoekburn . I . serbed . the . Wrbis .
Of . qbhik . the . Inglis . had . na . rps.* ”*

Such are the traditions relative to the old family of Deuchar, or of the “black fort,” as the Gaelic *Du-caer* literally signifies.† Their private genealogy traces their origin from a second son of Gilchrist, the great Earl of Angus ; but no documentary proof of them exists until the year 1369 [? 1379], when Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk granted a charter of the lands to William Deuhqwhyr of that Ilk, as heir to his father. It is therefore evident that the Deuchars were vassals of the Lindsays at that period, and, in all probability, they had also been those of the Montealtos, from whom the feudal superiority had most likely passed with the ownership of the barony of Ferne in 1379. In farther corroboration of this, it is *said* that the Deuchars paid an annual of a pair of white gloves to the Lindsays, which was by no means a singular reddendo for lands in old times, for Robert de Camera, ancestor of Chalmers of Aldbar, held the lands of Balnacraig, in Aberdeenshire, in the early part of the same century, on precisely the same terms, under his superior, Andrew de Garrioch.‡

If the appearance of old families as assisers, and witnesses to charters, is any criterion to judge of their influence or status in society, one is forced to the conclusion (from the rare occurrence of the Deuchars in these capacities), that they had always had

* This sword is now in possession of Capt. Patrick Deuchar, R.N., Edinburgh, a descendant of a younger son of Deuchar of that Ilk. He is also custodian of a great many of the family papers, to which he kindly gave us access. These were collected by his late brother, the well-known seal engraver ; and the words above, *within quotations*, are from a bundle titled “Deuchar Vouchers.” From these and other sources we have gleaned the following various spellings of the name, which may interest the curious :—

Dequhar.	Deughar.	Dewchare.	Dowchar.
Deuchair.	Deugher.	Dewquhar.	Dowgar.
Deuchar.	Deuhqwhyr.	Docher.	Duchar.
Deuchars.	Deuquhair.	Docker.	Duchir.
Deucharys.	Deuquhar.	Doker.	Duchre.
Deucher.	Deuquhare.	Doucher.	Ductor.
Deuchor.	Deuquhyre.	Doughar.	Duquhar.
Deuchquhyr.	Devchar.	Douquhar.	Duquhare.

† The following are other places in Scotland bearing similar names, viz. :—Dewchrasayde in Cunningham ; Duchrays in Dumfries ; Deuchar in Ettrick ; and Over and Nether Duchries in Banff.

‡ Nisbett's Heraldry, vol. ii.

an inconsiderable, though respectable standing. We have not met with them at all in the latter relation, and the only instances in which we have found them in the former, are "Patrik Duchir of that Ilk," who is one of several county gentlemen who were charged with giving a wrong decision in reference to the property of Ogilvy of Owres;* and, whether a member of the same ancient family we are uncertain, but a "Robert of Duchir" was similarly charged at an earlier date† in reference to the property of Scrimgeor of Lillok, in Dundee. It may also be noticed that about this time "James of Duchir," a residenter in Dundee, was found guilty of denying his own handwriting, which appeared at an obligation he made in favour of a foreigner. For this he was punished in a style exceedingly characteristic of the times, being ordered to be taken by the magistrates on the market day "to the market corse of the said burgh in the heiest tyme of the market quhen maist multitude of folk ar present, and gar ane officiar stryke him throw the hand that wrate the said write, in exemple of punitione of sic lyke cryme in tyme tocum."‡ This severe reprehension, however, did not prevent James from re-appearing before Justice, for in two years thereafter he was cited as a debtor of fifty shillings to a brother burgess.§

These are the principal notices of the Deuchars which have come under our observation. It has been already shewn that they were merely vassals of the Crawford Lindsays; and, from a deed of 1642, it also appears that the estate was a *free blench* holding under the Earls of Southesk;|| and, from at least 1691 to 1710, they paid an annual of nearly fifteen shillings and nine-pence sterling to the Carnegies as superiors,¶ while, at a later period, as a part of the forfeited estates of Southesk, the lands of Deuchar were held in seizin under the trustees of the York Buildings' Company.**

Nor, as is popularly said, did the estate of Deuchar pass uninterruptedly from father to son, for in several instances the grandfather was succeeded by his grandchild, and the uncle by his nephew. And, it may be observed, that after the barony of Ferne fell to the Southesk family, various of the Deuchars

* Acta Auditorum, June 4, 1478.

† *Ibid.*, July 6, 1478.

‡ *Ibid.*, July 5, 1478.

§ *Ibid.*, Mar. 17, 1478.

|| *Deuchar Vouchers*, quoted *ut sup.*, p. 188.

¶ *Old Rental Book of Southesk*, quoted *ut sup.*, p. 102.

** *Deuchar Vouchers*.

migrated to the parishes of Farnell and Kinnell, where they held considerable farms, and where, it is believed, some of their descendants live at the present time. The first Deuchar, the seal engraver of Edinburgh (father of the last seal engraver of that name), was of the Balishan branch, and born on that farm in 1743 ; and, in default of male issue by George Deuchar of Australia, and his brother in Aberdeenshire, the first seal engraver's grandson, now of Morningside, near Edinburgh, will succeed as chief of the family of " Deuchar of that Ilk."

The estate of Deuchar consists of little more than two hundred acres arable land ; but, according to tradition, the family had an interest in the lands of Windsor (which, as the name implies, is the most easterly rising ground in the parish), of which they are said to have had every *fourth fur*, or ridge. We have seen no voucher for this ; and, perhaps the story of their being portioners of Windsor, has been confounded by tradition with the fact of their having once possessed the *fourth* part of Waterstone. Be this as it may, both these farms were under the superiority of Ferne, and the seventh Earl of Crawford is specially mentioned as proprietor of Wyndesour ; while, between the years 1165 and 1189, Walter de Windesoure is witness to Walter de Berkeley's charter of the lands of Newton, near Inverkeillor,* and although there is no positive evidence of any family having assumed a surname from this Windsor, it is probable that Walter had done so, and been a vassal of the de Montealtos.

Waterstone, or Walterstown (a farm now divided betwixt Ferne and Careston, but wholly a part of the former parish until the erection of the latter into a separate parochial district), was anciently an independent property, and gave name to an old family who designed themselves " of that Ilk," and who, in all probability, had also been vassals of the Lindsays and older lords of Ferne. Alike with the name of Deuchar, records are wanting to shew the time when that of Waterstone was assumed ; but it is probable that the lands had been so called from *Walter*, the uncle and tutor of Dempster, one of the heirs-portioners of the lordship of Menmuir.† The earliest charter of the property belongs to the regency of the Duke of Albany ; but the family had enjoyed the estate at least a generation or two

* Reg. de Aberbrothor, p. 329.

† See Chap. VI., Sec. II., of this vol.

before that, for the grant of the half lands is given to David, son and heir of John de Walterystoun, together with eight marks of annual rent out of the farms of the thanedom of Tannadice.* This charter was granted at Falkland in 1407, and in 1450, David Walterstoun of that Ilk was one of an assize chosen to perambulate the marches of Brechin and Balzeordy,† and Hew of Walterstoun—perhaps a son of David—was one of the referees in the case of the Owres property already mentioned.

The last time we have met with the name is in 1585, when David, portioner of the lands of Waterstoun, with Dempster of Careston, Deuchar of that Ilk, Fenton of Ogil, and other adjoining proprietors, were charged by the Bishop and Chapter of Brechin with having riven out, tilled, and sawin, and built houses upon a part of the commonty of that city, which had been used by them and the citizens as a common peatery, “past memory of man.” In this process the defenders were found in fault, and Lord Gray, then Sheriff of the county, declared “the whole muir to be a commonty to the said reverend father (the Bishop), Dean, Chapter, and citizens of Brechin.”‡ This “commonty” was of great extent, and well worth claiming, having extended over a large part of the parishes of Brechin, Menmuir, Careston, and Ferne—its extreme boundary on the east being the Gallows Hill of Keithock, and that on the west the Gallows, or Law of Ferne—being an average length of not less than eight miles, and in breadth nearly one-and-a-half. It is on this commonty that Little Brechin, and many other hamlets are situated, all of which are subject to the superiority of the city of Brechin on the payment of certain feu-duties.

But, of all the lands in Ferne, or, indeed, in any other part of the district comprised in this volume, those of Balmadity are the oldest on record. In ancient times, this small property belonged to the great Macduffs of Fife, and so early as the reign of Malcolm IV., Duncan, Earl of Fife, excambed “Balmadethy and Dunloppie,” with Orme, the son of Hugh of Abernethy, for the lands of Balbernie in Fife,|| and in 1362 it was granted by the heiress, Margaret Abernethy, Countess of Angus, to William de Fassingtoun,§ of whom or his name, nothing is known be-

* Reg. Mag. Sig.

† Hist. of Brechin, p. 19.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 24.

|| Douglas' Peerage.

§ Reg. Mag. Sigill.

yond the fact that a William de Fasington, of the county of Edinburgh, swore fealty to Edward I. in 1296.* We are unacquainted with the subsequent history of this estate; suffice it to say, that it has formed a portion of the barony of Ferne for many centuries.



SECTION III.

"The brave Carnegie, wha but he—
The Piper o' Dundee."

JACOBITE BALLAD.

As already shewn, the family of Lindsay were designed "of Wayne" till nearly the middle of last century, but were succeeded in the barony of Ferne by Carnegie of Southesk between 1593 and 1595,† and falling under the attainder of 1716, was part of the forfeited estates of Southesk which were repurchased by Sir James Carnegie of Pittarrow, by whose trustees in 1766, the lands were sold to John Mill of Philpot Lane, London. He was succeeded by his son, who, after building the mansion house of Noranside, and otherwise improving the property, alienated the whole, with the exception of the Noranside part. This was purchased from a descendant by the trustees of the late Thomas Gardyne of Middleton, and in virtue of his testamentary deed, is now possessed by his nephew, James Carnegy of Finhaven.

The portion sold by John Mill was that now belonging to the Hon. William Maule, third son of the late Lord Panmure, to whom it came by marriage with the daughter of the late Thomas Binny of Maulesden, who purchased the barony in 1836 from the trustees of Alexander Greenhill, whose father acquired the property from Mill in 1797.‡

Of the families of Mill and Greenhill little is known. Robert, the first of the former, was provost of Montrose, and amassing a respectable fortune by trading, bought the lands of Balwylo in the parish of Dun, sometime before the beginning of last century.§ and those of Balhall in Menmuir soon after.|| He was father of

* Ragman Roll, p. 134.

† *Deuohar Vouchers*, fol. 11, quoted *ut sup.* p. 183.

‡ *Inventory of the Title Deeds of Ferne*, kindly communicated by the Hon. William Maule.

§ Douglas' Baronage.

|| *Inv. of the Title Deeds of Balhall*.

the first Mill of Ferne, whose brother was proprietor of Old Montrose, to a portion of whose wealth his nephew of Noranside succeeded. In 1786, and while a mere youth, Mill of Noranside married an Irish lady of the name of Ivy, widow of the Hon. George Falconer, fifth son of David Lord Halkerton. This turned out an unhappy union, and Mill dying issueless in 1822, the Noranside part of Ferne devolved on Major James Mill, a hero of Waterloo, by whom it was sold as above.

Charles Greenhill, who bought the greater part of the barony of Ferne from Mill, belonged to the neighbourhood of Glamis. He was of humble parentage, and being bred to the law, was much employed as trustee on bankrupt estates, and was factor to the Southesk family for upwards of forty years. He married a sister of the late Thomas Gardyne of Middleton, by whom he had a family of sons and daughters, of the former of whom, David Greenhill of Craignathro, of the East India Company's Civil Service, is the only survivor, and heir of entail to his cousin, James Carnegie, in the estates of Finhaven and Noranside. The genealogy of the present honourable proprietor of the barony of Ferne has already been traced.* It only now remains to give a brief outline of the noble house of Southesk, whose family and fortunes were linked with these lands for upwards of a century and a-half.

We have already seen that the Lindsays were succeeded in the barony of Ferne by the Carnegies towards the close of the sixteenth century. The surname of this noble family was originally *de Balinhard*, and is commonly said to have been assumed from a small property in the parish of Arbirlot. Martin of Clermont says that the first of them was constable of the Castle of Kincardine, in William the Lion's time;† but the earliest genuine notice regarding them occurs about the year 1230, when Jocelynus de Balindard witnesses several deeds betwixt the Abbays of Arbroath and Balmerino.‡ From the fact of Jocelynus witnessing charters relating to Fifeshire only (for, so far as known, he does not occur in any as an Angus-shire baron), it might be inferred that he was settled in Fife at the date of those deeds, and instead of Balinhard in Arbirlot giving the

* *Ut sup.* pp. 117, &c.

† *Doug. Peerage*, vol. ii.

‡ *Reg. de Aberbrothoc, et S. Andree.*

surname to the family, a descendant of Jocelynus may have conferred the name on the lands.

As Jocelynus is a common Norman name, it is probable that his progenitors had been among the Norman settlers in David's time; but, the real ancestor of the Southesk branch was John de Balinhard, who died about 1280, and his first known property of Balinhard, which lay in the middle of the lordship of Panmure, was exchanged, or otherwise parted with, by his great-grandson for the lands of Carnegie, in the parish of Carmyllie, which he had from Sir Walter Maule about 1350.* From these lands the progenitors of Carnegie of Kinnaird assumed their surname and title of "Carnegie of that Ilk."

Duthacus de Carnegie, second son to the first "of that Ilk," was the first of Kinnaird, having in 1401 purchased a part of these lands from Richard Air.† This, in all probability, was the western half, which is called Kukystone, or Quygstone; for, on his marriage with Mariota de Kinnaird in 1409, (by which he acquired the other half of the lands and town of Kinnaird, with the superiority of the brew-house), he is called "Duthac Carnegie of Kukyston."‡ Mariota was one of three co-heiresses, and the other sisters were severally married to Panter of Newmanswalls, and Cramond of Aldbar, all of whom were, for a time at least, joint lairds of Kinnaird.§

Duthac, however, was not doomed to enjoy either his newly acquired possession, or the society of his wife, for any length of

* A copy of the charter is in the British Museum, and runs thus:—"David II.: "Sciatis nos approbasse et hac presenti carta confirmasse donationem illam et concessionem quam quondam Walterus de Maule fecit et concessit Joanni (filio) et heredi quondam Joannis filii Christini, filii Joannis de Balinhard de terra de Carrynegil cum pertinen. in Baronia de Panmür infra Vicecomitatum de Forfa, tenend. et habend. eidem Joanni de Carnagil filio," &c. "et heredibus in feodo," &c. [I am indebted to the kindness of Sir James Carnegie for the copy of this charter, the perusal of his Family Tree, &c.]

† *Crawford's Peerage*. [The surname of Air subsisted in the parish of Farnell until the late period of 1851, when the last of the name (an unmarried female) died at an advanced age.]

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sigil.*

§ The barony of Kinnaird was held by the ancient tenure of keeping the King's ale cellar whenever the Court should have residence in Forfarshire, and the seal of John Carnegie of Kinnaird, Bailie-Depute of the Abbey of Arbroath, is appended to a sasine given by him in his character of Bailie (*pro hac vice*) of the lands of Balishan in favour of Lord Ogilvy of Airly, who was the Chief Bailie of the Abbey. The sasine is dated 13th of October, 1489. The seal bears an eagle displayed standing on a *butt*, or *tun*. There appears to be a mullet in the sinister chief for difference, but the bearing of the ale-tun must have had reference to the tenure of the barony of Kinnaird, and not to the name of Carnegie. The first Earl bore the heraldic charge of a *cup* on the eagle's breast, which may have been substituted for the ale-tun, or sign of territorial office, either in consequence of the bearing of the *cup* being derived from the tenure, by which some other lands than those of Kinnaird were held, or from the family being royal cup-bearers—an office which they are popularly believed to have enjoyed under the Kings of Scotland.

time; for, when the unfortunate dispute arose betwixt Donald of the Isles and Regent Albany regarding the succession to the Earldom of Ross, Duthac joined in that dreadful enterprise, and was left dead on the field. Walter, his only son, fought against Earl Beardie at the battle of Brechin in 1452, for which he had his castle burnt down, wherein, says Crawford, "all his writs and evidents were miserably consumed."

David, Earl of Crawford, afterwards Duke of Montrose, gave John, the son of this Walter (whom he styles his cousin), a life-rent out of the lands of Glenesk, and dying in 1505, he was succeeded by his son, also John, who fell with his King and many kinsmen at Flodden. It was not, however, until the time of Sir Robert, the fourth in descent from Duthac, that the family rose to importance.* He is supposed to have been author of a book on Scots Law, cited as *Liber Carnegii*, and was appointed a Lord of Session in 1547, but for this he was to have no remuneration, "quhil there vauked a place of one of the Lords Temporal, who had profit thereof before."† He was also employed in many important national transactions, and added the properties of Little Carcary, Fithie, Arrat, Cookstone, Athie, and the barony of Panbride in Angus, and others in Perth, Fife, and the East and West Lothians, to his paternal estate. He died in 1565, and by Margaret, daughter to Guthrie of Lunan, left a family of seven sons and seven daughters. The oldest of the former, Sir John, was so much the confidant of the unfortunate Queen Mary, that in 1570, she is said to have written a letter craving Sir John's advice how to act in her difficulties.

Sir John died issueless, and was succeeded by his next brother, Sir David, who married Elizabeth Ramsay, heiress of Coluthie and Leuchars. He held many high offices in the state, and was so particularly beloved by the King, that he visited him at Kinnaird in 1617, during which time his Highness amused himself hunting in the adjoining forest of Montreuthmont; and

* This Sir Robert had a natural son, John (ch. 330, lib. 35, Reg. Mag. Sigil.), who bought the lands of Carnegie, and was designated John Carnegie of that ilk, in 1581 (ch. 404, lib. 35, wherein Catherine Fotheringham is mentioned as his spouse)—*Macfarlane's MS. Notes on Geo. Crawford's Peerage of Scotland*. This John Carnegie bought the lands from Sir James Carnegie of that ilk, who was head of the family in 1500; and Sir David of Kinnaird, the first of Leuchars, bought the same lands from Sir Robert's natural son or grandson. They passed to the Panmure family by exchange.

† Haig and Brunton's Hist. Acct. Senators Coll. of Justice, p. 90.

for the convenience of "leading his Majesty's provision" while he resided at Kinnaird, the bridge over the Pow, betwixt and Old Montrose, was first erected.* Charles I. and II. were also at Kinnaird;† and the Chevalier passed some nights there while on his perilous enterprise, and remains of his bed-curtains are still preserved in the house.

Sir David was raised to the Peerage, by the title of Lord Carnegie, the year before King James's visit to Kinnaird; and in 1633, he received the still higher honour of Earl of Southesk from Charles I.‡ He was also Sheriff of Forfarshire, and by Cromwell's Act of Grace and Pardon, was fined in the large sum of three thousand pounds. His excellencies are thus summed up in Arthur Johnston's "*Musæ Aulicæ*":—

"Nec numero clauduntur opes, nec limite rura,
Carnegi : servat mens tamen alta modum."

His wife was a daughter of Sir David Lindsay of Edzell; and a beautifully embroidered silk velvet cloth at Kinnaird Castle bears the Carnegie arms impaled with those of Lindsay. He died in 1658, and left three sons and three daughters. The eldest son succeeded to the Earldom; the second, Sir John, had charters of Craig and Ulishaven in 1618, and the year following had the barony of Ferne, and was the first Carnegie designed therefrom; while the third son, Alexander, was the first of Pittarrow. The daughters all married peers, the husband of the youngest, Magdalene, being no less a personage than the celebrated Marquis of Montrose,§ who, when on his way a prisoner to Edinburgh, shortly before his execution, took farewell of his wife and infant son at Kinnaird.

It is a tradition in the family that Lord Ogilvy of Airlie was to have married Lady Magdalene, but his horse refusing to cross the river while on his way to propose marriage, he thought it a bad omen, and immediately returned. On learning this, Lady Magdalene was sorely grieved, and her father soothed her by

* *Session Records of Brechin.*

† Ochterlony, c. 1682.

‡ His second brother John, was created Lord Lour in 1639, and Earl of Ethie (now Northeast) in 1647. The other two brothers were Sir Robert of Dunichen and Sir Alexander of Balmnnoon and Careston. Portraits of these four brothers, by Jamieson of Aberdeen, are among the magnificent collection of British and Foreign paintings at Kinnaird.

§ It is a curious coincidence, that two cousins should have been so closely allied to the two greatest warriors of their time—Lady Jane Carnegie, youngest daughter of the first Earl of Northeast, having been the mother of Graham, the hero of Killiecrankie.

advising her "Not to mind, as he would soon find her a better husband than Airlie!" It was also in the first Earl's lifetime, just after the Earldom had been created, that the Kinnaird division of Farnell was made a separate parish. This was suppressed, however, and re-united to Farnell, in 1787.*

The first Earl was succeeded by his second son, James (the eldest son, David, having died in his father's lifetime without male issue), and because of his dark swarthy complexion, he is known in the family genealogy as "the Black Earl." He waited long on Charles II. while an exile in Holland, was a commissioner at the English Parliament of 1652, and present at Cromwell's proclamation at Edinburgh in '57. He was one of the best swordsmen of his time, and killed the Master of Gray in a duel, near London, in the memorable 1660, and died a privy councillor nine years afterwards. Educated at Padua in Italy, he had the credit of being a magician, and is said not only to have given his shadow to the devil, but to have departed to him bodily, having been lost with his coach and four, one dark stormy night, in the Starney-Bucket Well, which lay in the *Devil's Den*, immediately

* "Parish of Kynnard, in the Diocese of St. Andrews, and Regality of Rescobie."—*Charter of Mid. Drums, &c.* The Kinnaird church of the first Earl's time was erected in the park in front of the castle, where its foundations and several tombstones are yet visible. One of the stones (dated 16-0), presents this quaint couplet:—

"We doo this for no other end,
But that ovr byrrell may be kend."

The Farnell division, where the parish church is now situated, is said to have belonged to the Ogilvys of Airlie; but this is merely a popular error, it having, from time immemorial, belonged to the Cathedral of Brechin, to which the church was attached, and where the Bishops had a grange or residence. A good part of the Castle is still entire, and two small shields on the corner of the gable walls bear respectively a *crowned heart* (the armorial ensignia of Douglas), and a monogram, or date.

Duncan de Ferneval (one of the perambulators of the Arbroath and Kintlethmont marches in 1219, and witness to Malcome, Earl of Angus in 1225), had probably been a vassal of the Bishop; and it is worthy of notice that Edward I. stopped here on Friday the 6th of July, 1296, when on his subjugating expedition through the kingdom. At the Reformation, the lands of Farnell became the property of the Earl of Argyle; and in 1568, Catherine Campbell, Countess of Crawford, and near relative of Argyle, gave, among other properties, "the demeane lands of Fernwell" to her younger sons.—*Crawford Case*, p. 219. It was the first Earl of Southesk (whose wife was grand-daughter to this Countess of Crawford) that was the first Carnegie of Farnell.

The church is rather a tasteful erection, built during the minority of the late baronet, and beautifully situated on a rising ground on the side of the Pow. Perhaps the district is named from the abundance of arn, or alder trees in this water course, for *Fern-n-ald*, or *all*, in Gael, means "the stream of arns." The kirk was, perhaps, dedicated to Saint Rumon or Rumold, as a knoll, about a mile north of the church, is called *Rume's Cross*, and a fine sculptured stone bearing an ornamental cross and other carving (figured in Plate XXI. of Mr. Chalmers' *Sculptured Monuments of Angus*), was lately found in the churchyard, but whether the gravestone of an old ecclesiastic, it is difficult to determine. The bell on the church bears:—"IOHANNES. DVGERREYVS. ME. FECIT. ANNO. 1662."

south of the family burial vault!—Still, at no distant date, he was believed to haunt the district, and amuse himself by driving a coach along the lawns, with the horses beautifully plumed, and decorated with innumerable *blue* lights!

The *Black* Earl was succeeded by his only son, Robert, captain of a company of Scots Guards to Louis XIV.; but he is best known in history as the husband of Lady Ann Hamilton, whose conduct in connection with the Court of the “merry monarch” form prominent features in the Memoirs of Count Grammont. It was in this Earl’s time that the Castle of the Wayne underwent those important repairs which will be noticed hereafter, and also that Ochterlony described Kinnaird as being “without competition the fynest place, taking altogether, in the shyre; a great house, excellent gardens, parks with fallow deer, orchards, hay meadows, wherein are extraordinary quantities of hay, very much planting, ane excellent breed of horse, cattle, and sheep, extraordinary good land.”*

Earl Robert, whose disposition is said to have been so austere, that even on his death-bed no one durst disobey him, was succeeded by his son, Charles. He was a man of great taste, and planted most of the fine old trees which shadow the avenue to the vault, on which (according to a quaint inscription under the family arms at the gateway), he and his Countess, Lady Mary Maitland, of the house of Lauderdale, “put up thir coats, and built this gate, in the year 1704.”†

* The castle was mostly rebuilt about the beginning of this century, and is still one of the finest in the shire, whether as regards its imposing exterior, or internal decorations. The breed of “fallow deer,” which number about 400, is the same as they were in Guyn’d’s time; but the deer park of that period, which has never been ploughed, is now the cow park; and the present deer park—an enclosure of 400 acres, which lies in front of the castle—was partly made in 1821, when the walls were built round it. It is now being greatly improved and enlarged, and when completed, its extent will be more than doubled. Many of the trees at Kinnaird are of great size and beauty, and to those fond of such matters, it may be briefly mentioned that some of the Beech Trees girth upwards of 14 feet; Ash, from 18 to 11½ f.; Elm, 13 to 11 f.; Oak, 13 to 9 f.; a Silver Fir upwards of 11 f.; Lime, from 18 to 9 f.; Sycamore, from 17 to 10 f.; Horse Chesnut, 11 f.; Scots Fir, about 8 f. 5 in.; Thorn, 7 f.; Guin, from upwards of 9 to 8 f. 3 in.; Birch, nearly 7 f. These measurements are taken at heights varying from 8 to 4 f. from the ground, and their detail is a mere epitome of the information kindly communicated on the subject by Sir James Carnegie, Bart., whose taste in landscape gardening is daily manifesting itself in the improvements which he is effecting over the whole of his large estate.

† In 1691, during the time of Earl Charles of Southesk, the barony of Ferne (apart from the estates of Deuchar and Auchnacree,* which were held under the superiority of the lord of Ferne), consisted of the following farms:—Mayna, Ballmaditie, Easter Balquhadlie, Wester

* In 1691 et sub., the proprietor of Auchnacree paid an annual feu-duty of £20 Scots to the Earls of Southesk. This is the only fact worthy of notice which I have been able to ascertain regarding this property,

although I am told that there are titles of it by the Earls of Crawford and Southesk, for upwards of three hundred years.

Earl James, who figured so conspicuously in the unfortunate transactions of "the fifteen," for which he was forfeited, was the only son of Earl Charles. He was at the battle of Sheriffmuir, and in the enumeration of the heroes of that field, is termed "Brave generous Southesk," and was the hero of the fine Jacobite ballad of "The Piper o' Dundee."* After the defeat of his party, he escaped to France, where he died in 1729, and his only son, a mere boy, having pre-deceased him, the representation of the family devolved on the Pittarrow branch, as descendants of the fourth son of the first Earl. The Southesk estates were the third largest of those forfeited, and were scattered over no fewer than seven counties, and estimated at the annual rent of £3,271, 10s., besides services; but the value of property in Scotland has increased so much since then, that these and most other estates are worth seven or eight times the rental here stated.

On the insolvency of the York Buildings' Company, in the year 1764, they were re-purchased by Sir James Carnegie of Pittarrow, the great-grandfather of the present baronet, for £36,870, 14s. 2d. Long prior to this, however, he had procured an assignation to a lease of Kinnaird, and making it his residence, he improved the lands to a vast extent, without any positive idea of their ever becoming his own; and it was mainly by his enterprise that the general sale of the forfeited estates of Scotland was effected. In early life he served in the Flemish wars, and married Christian, daughter of David Doig of Cookston, who survived him for the long period of fifty-five years, dying in 1820, at the great age of ninety-one. His son, Sir David, disposed of the barony of Arnhall in the Mearns, and Leuchars in Fife, and purchased the fine estate of Old Montrose, adjoining Kinnaird, in 1791, from Sir James Stirling, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.†

Balquhadlie, Brucetoun, Shan-foord, New-milne, Old-milne, Wak-milne, Balquharn and Cornablews, Fermertown, Kirk-den, Boggie, Reid-foord, Dubbytown and Court-foord, Cathro-seat, Waterstown, Milne of Waterstown, Easter Hiltown, Windsour, Ladinhendry, Auchlochie, and Trustoe. The number of tenants in these farms were fifty-two; and the gross rental amounted to 388 bolls, 1½ firiot, 3 pecks, and ½ lippie, bear; 565 bolls, ¾ firiot, 2 pecks, and 1½ lippie, meal; £1538 1s. money Scots; 18 capons; 30 poultry; and 5 swine.—*Old Rental Book of Southesk*, quoted *sup.* p. 102.

* In "Jacobite Minstrelsy," Glasgow edit., 24mo, p. 118, Carnegie of Finhaven is erroneously said to be the subject of this popular ballad.

† This was the ancient patrimony and messuage of the noble family of Graham, from which they were designed "Dominus de Ald Munros," so early as 1360. It was also the birth-place of "the Great Marquis," whose portrait, in his wedding dress, is at Kinnaird Castle.

During the lifetime of the late baronet, son of Sir David, the fine highland estate of Strachan in Mearns-shire was purchased ; and on the death of Sir Thomas Burnet of Leys, the present baronet of Southesk was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of that county. In 1850, he married the Lady Catherine Noel, second daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough, by whom he has issue ; and, in consequence of his direct descent from the fourth son of the first Peer (whose younger brother was ancestor of the Earls of Northesk), he is the lineal representative of the Earls of Southesk, and chief of the family of Carnegie.



SECTION IV.

" His castle stood in a lonely glen,
By the side of a rocky stream ;
An' there full mony a deed was done
Whilk nae ane dared to name."

" All is bot gaistia, and eirische fantasyia,
Of brownys and of bogillis full this buke."

GAWIN DOUGLAS.

POPULAR tradition ascribes the erection of the Castle of Vayne, or the old Manor-House of Ferne, to Cardinal Beaton, whither he is said to have resorted "for less consistent purposes than the fulfilment of his vow of celibacy," and a deep black pool in the Noran near the castle is called *Tammy's Pot*, from a story that one of his sons, whom he had by a Lady Vayne, fell over the precipice and was drowned there. Such is the tale ; but, as shewn in tracing the history of the transmission of the barony of Ferne, Beaton never had any proprietary interest in the parish ; and if he had ever resided there, nothing exists even to prove that particular,—although tradition farther corroborates the story, by asserting that when he and his suite appeared at a certain point of the road, on their way to the church on Sundays, it was signal for ringing the bell ! In short, the whole story, like that of his gifting the bell to the church, is a mere fable, and framed, no doubt, from the peculiarly secluded site of the castle ; for at no distant date, not only the most of the obscure retreats and fortalices in Angus were said to have been tenanted by him

and his paramours, but almost everything bad and disreputable was ascribed to him.

Be that as it may; it is to him that we are indebted for the preservation of some of the most valuable remains of our monastic literature; and, when the collections of old family charters are completed (which are now being made by impartial antiquarians), the character of Cardinal Beaton may, perhaps, require to be looked upon more favourably than hitherto; for, since so much light has been thrown by these investigations on the private character of John Knox, and Erskine of Dun*—who knows but the record of many redeeming points in Beaton's history may yet be discovered. Nay, it is probable, despite the coarse allusions and assertion of party historians, that he was allied to Mariota Ogilvy (the mother of all his children), "by that sort of morganatic marriage frequent among churchmen of that period."†

The Castle of the Vayne is situated on the north bank of the Noran, at the most rocky and precipitous part of the stream, betwixt and which there is a natural terrace-walk along the top of the rocks, where the lords and ladies of other days could muse unseen amidst a mass of wild and imposing scenery. It was originally three stories high, with a circular tower or staircase in the south-west corner, and built of the soft red sandstone of the district. The workmanship has been very indifferent, and although a total ruin, its old extent is mostly traceable; but the only part presenting the original height, is the gable-wall on the east. In the time of Earl Robert of Southesk, it was greatly improved, and immediately subsequent to these alterations, Ochterlony described it as "a very good house, called the Waird, well planted, good yards, the house presently repaired by him [the Earl of Southesk], and well furnished within; it hath an excellent fine large great park called the Waird."

Many of Earl Robert's repairs, which had been made with a stone superior to that employed in the original building, are yet visible about the place, and the doors and windows were ornamented with Horatian and other maxims. Three of these are still in existence, having been removed from the castle and built into

* Tytler's Hist. of Scot., 2nd edit., vol. vii. pp. 21, and 355; Spalding Club Miscellany, vol. iv.; Booke of the Univ. Kirk of Scot., p. 25, *et sub.*

† Archaeologia, vol. xxxiv. p. 35.

various parts of the walls of the adjoining farm-steading. One is more elegant than the rest; and bears an Earl's coronet, and other sculpture, in high relief, and the monogram initials of Earl Robert (R.E.S), together with the following legend, which may have had reference to the merry disposition of his spouse:—

“DISCE . MEO . EXEMPLA[o] . FORMOSIS . POSSE . CARERE.”

The second stone, which is over the garden door, runs thus:—

“—VS . PLACITIS . ABSTINVISSE . BONIS

—NNO . DOM. 1678;”

and the third presents this quaint observation:—

“NON . SIMALE . NVNC . ET

SIC . ERAT

ANNO . DOM. 1678.”*

Like most of our old uninhabited castles, that of the Vayne fell a victim to the Gothicism of despoiling utilitarians, a part of it having been blown down with gunpowder by a tenant farmer, and the stones used for building dykes and similar purposes. The cellar or vault, forming the ground floor of the east wing, has still its arched roof, and is the only roofed part of the building, and a deep dungeon is said to be below, into which the family, before taking their final departure, threw all their treasure of money and plate! This chamber has been often sought for, and only one person is believed ever to have found it. When about to descend in search of the valuables, however, he was forcibly thrust from the mouth of the yawning gulf by an uncouth monster in the shape of a horned ox, who departed in a blaze of fire through a big hole in the wall (still pointed out!) and, before the terrified treasure-seeker could recover himself, the chasm which he had wrought so hard to discover, was again shut from his view!

The doings of Satan at this place are proverbial, and the umbrageous rocky ravine through which the Noran tumbles its pellucid waters, is the very place which imagination would picture as his abode, and here, in all conceivable phases he reigned of old, and perhaps reigns still; for, according to provincial rhyme, this locality was his favourite place of residence—

“There's the Brownie o' Ba'quharn,

An' the Ghaist o' Brandieden;

But of a' the places i' the parish,

The deil burns up the Vayne!”

* “Non, si male nunc, et olim sic erit.”—*Horace*.

A little east of the castle, close by the side of the Noran, a large sandstone has lain from time immemorial, bearing a deep indentation resembling the hoof of a colossal horse with the impress of one of the *caulkers* of the heel. This has been evidently fashioned by the falling out of a large pebble embedded in the stone, though at first glance it looks like an artificial work. It is popularly called the Kelpie's Footmark, and was believed to have been occasioned by his step while bounding among the rocks, some of the largest of which he not only amused himself overturning when the water was swollen; but, as if conscious of his own unbridled power, boldly seated himself on others, and called lustily for help, in the feigned voice of a drowning person, so that he might lure his victim to the river.

The good people of Waterstone were much annoyed in this way, arising, it is said, from the deceptive nature of the adjoining ford, which is much deeper than the clearness of the water would lead one to suppose; and, with a view to deceive the neighbours, when any real case of drowning occurred, Kelpie ever and anon called out—

“A' the men o' Waterstone!—Come here! come here!”

Almost opposite Wayne Castle, on the lands of Markhouse, there is a spot of ground called “the Deil's Hows,” where the notorious personage from which the place is named has made some wonderful manifestations of his presence, in even later times than those of our grandfathers; and from this place, which is a small hollow in the middle of a muir, large lumps of earth have been thrown to a great distance without any visible cause.* The stone bearing Kelpie's footmark is of the conglomerate sort, and the earth of the Deil's How, at a little depth, is a stratum of a yellowish colour, mixed with small stones, containing in themselves no sulphur, but merely a composite of argillaceous earth and iron, the calcined substance of which forms a good red ochre.

But of all the *spirits* of this locality, the *Brownie* and the *Ghaist* are by far the most popular; and are considered by some as one and the same. In other quarters, however, the *Brownie* was an independent and entirely different being, and but for the wonderful ghost stories connected with Ferne, he might also

* Old Stat. Account, vol. xix., p. 375.

have figured in the same way there. From the similarity of his disposition to the *Lar Familiaris* of the ancients, some believe that he was descended from them. Brownies existed in all countries and ages—not only under the lucid skies of Greece and Italy, but under the dark wintry clouds of Scandinavia; and, as the name of the “fairies” originated from the clearness of their habit, and their aerial abode, that of the Brownie was assumed from their dark swarthy complexion, and their partiality for the remote chambers of ruined houses and the secluded banks of rivers.

Their habits were the same over the whole globe, except those of the Shetland Brownie, who assumed “all the covetousness of the most interested hireling,” instead of performing the laborious and self-imposed services which characterized his fellows in other quarters.* These particulars, and their aversion to the receipt of remuneration, are described in the following exquisite lines of Mr. Erskine’s Supplemental Stanzas to Collins’ Ode on the Highland Superstitions :—

“Hail, from thy wanderings long, my much-loved sprite !
 Thou friend, thou lover of the lowly, hail !
 Tell, in what realms thou sport’st thy merry night,
 Trail’st the long mop, or whirl’st the mimic flail.
 Where dost thou deck the much-disorder’d hall,
 While the tired damsel in Elysium sleeps,
 With early voice to drowsy workmen call,
 Or lull the dame while mirth his vigils keeps ?
 ’Twas thus in Caledonia’s domes, ’tis said,
 Thou plyedst the kindly task in years of yore :
 At last, in luckless hour, some erring maid
 Spread in thy nightly cell of viands store :—
 Ne’er was thy form beheld among their mountains more.”

At no distant date almost every farmer in Shetland possessed one of these mysterious beings; but from their opposite conduct there, they were considered rather in the light of evil spirits; and, it is a singular fact, that in all localities famous as their haunts, the same reasons are assigned for their disappearance, and the same stories are told of their services to the gude-wife of the farm houses where they took up their abode. This is peculiarly the case with the Brownie of Bodsbeck in Ettrick

* See Jamieson’s *Scottish Dict.*, in voce.

Forest, and those of Ferne, and Claypots near Dundee. In all those instances the Tweed, the Noran, and the Dichty waters were forded when at their highest, and the *sage femme* landed safely at the door of the sick wife !

Such were the leading characteristics of Brownies in general. But that of Ferne, in addition to those servicable qualities, was connected with, and had his origin in, a scene of cruelty and bloodshed, not uncharacteristic of the age to which tradition ascribes it, and, as before hinted, stamps the Brownie and the Ghaist of Ferne as one and the same ; and the *Ghaist's Stane*, or the piece of rock to which that worthy was chained, is in the vicinity of the kirk ! In Brandyden (the great hollow betwixt the kirk and Noranside), there were, within these fifty years, the foundations of a house, said to have been an old fortalice of the lords of Ferne—perhaps belonging to the de Montaltos—though of the site of the most ancient house of Ferne, no conjecture can be formed ; but, in all probability, as was the custom of feudal times, it had been nearer the church than the present castle, which is about a mile to the south. The situation of Brandyden is equally secluded as that of Vayne, and, according to tradition, the occupant was a sort of Bluebeard, who punished his vassals with the utmost impunity.

One of these offended him so grievously at one time, that, although an influential person, he was doomed to die the ignominious death of a traitor, and being thrown into a dungeon to await his execution, he fortunately breathed his last before the hour arrived, and his body was buried in a secluded spot betwixt the castle and Balquharn. From that luckless day, the laird's peace was broken, and no servant would stay with him—the doors and windows of his house flew open of their own accord, not only in the cold stormy-nights of winter, but in those of the quiet inviting summer, and hideous yells reverberated throughout the dwelling at all hours, and the laird, falling into a state of despondency, died suddenly and mysteriously ! But this had no effect in stopping the wanderings of the vassals' spirit ; so far from that, it was the means of inciting him to usefulness, it being only after the laird's death that he assumed the character of a menial, and made himself so very acceptable to the servants, and performed that piece of service to the gude-

wife of the farm house, for which he is most remarkable in the district. Although, as already seen, this occurrence was far from unique, it was wedded to verse by some old local bard, in the following rude effusion of

The Ghaist o' Ferne-den.

There liv'd a farmer in the North
 (I canna tell you when),
 But just he had a famous farm
 Nae far frae Ferne-den.
 I doubtna, sirs, ye a' ha'e heard,
 Baith women folks an' men,
 About a muckle, fearfu' Ghaist—
 The Ghaist o' Ferne-den !
 The muckle Ghaist, the fearfu' Ghaist,
 The Ghaist o' Ferne-den ;
 He wad ha'e wrought as muckle wark
 As four-an'-twenty men !

Gin there was ony strae to thrash,
 Or ony byres to clean,
 He never thocht it muckle fash
 O' workin' late at e'en !
 Although the nicht was ne'er sae dark,
 He scuddit through the glen,
 An' ran an errand in a crack—
 The Ghaist o' Ferne-den !

As nicht the mistress o' the house
 Fell sick an' like to dee,—
 "O ! for a canny wily wife !"
 Wi' nicht an' main cried she !
 The nicht was dark, an' no a spark
 Wad venture through the glen,
 For fear that they wad meet the Ghaist—
 The Ghaist o' Ferne-den !

But Ghaistie stood ahint the door,
 An' hearin' a' the strife,
 He saw though they had men a score,
 They soon wad tye the wife !
 Aff to the stable then he goes,
 An' saddles the auld mare,
 An' through the splash an' slash he ran
 As fast as ony hare !

He chappit at the Mammy's door—
 Says he—" Mak haste an' rise ;
 Put on your claise an' come wi' me,
 An' tak ye nae surprise !" "
 " Where am I gaun ?" quo' the wife,
 " Nae far, but through the glen—
 Ye're wantit to a farmer's wife,
 No far frae Ferne-den !"

He's ta'en the Mammy by the hand,
 An' set her on the pad,
 Got on afore her an' set aff
 As though they baith were mad !
 They climb'd the braes—they lap the burns—
 An' through the glush did plash :
 They never minded stock nor stane,
 Nor ony kind o' trash !

As they were near their journey's end,
 An' scuddin' through the glen :
 " Oh !" says the Mammy to the Ghaist,
 " Are we come near the Den ?
 For, oh ! I'm fear'd we meet the Ghaist !" "
 " Tush, weesht, ye fool !" quo' he ;
 " For waur than ye ha'e i' your arms,
 This nicht ye winna see !"

When they cam to the farmer's door
 He set the Mammy down :—
 " I've left the house but ae half hour—
 I am a clever loon !
 But step ye in an' mind the wife
 An' see that a' gae richt,
 An' I will tak ye hame again
 At twal o'clock at night !"

" What maks yer feet sae braid ?" quo' she,
 " What maks yer e'en sae sair ?"
 Said he—" I've wander'd mony a road
 Without a horse or mare !
 But gin they speir, Wha brought you here,
 'Cause they were scarce o' men ;
 Just tell them that ye rade ahint
 The Ghaist o' Ferne-den !"

* I am indebted to the Rev. Mr. Harris of Ferne for this ballad, who had it from the late Rev. Dr. Lyon of Glamis about 1812-13. There are, perhaps, more poetic versions of the tale, but this is preferred in consequence of being the oldest.

Long after this timeous service to the gudewife, however, Brownie continued his monotonous wanderings as a ghost, to the fear and dread of all guilty hearts; and, in his serviceable capacity to the industrious and eident, who were ever thankful of his visits. Tradition, with its accustomed minuteness, points out the gudewife of Farmerton as the person in whose welfare he felt so interested, and a male child was the issue. This youth ultimately became remarkable for courage and valour in various ways, and although, from time to time, many stalwart persons had encountered the spirit of the murdered vassal, none had sufficient courage to "speak," and allay him. After Farmerton's son had reached manhood, however, and when returning home one dark night, he accidentally met this spirit, and, determined to know the cause of his wanderings,

"About himsell wi' hazell staff,
He made ane roundlie score;
And said, 'My lad, in name o' Gude,
What doe you wander for?'"

On this the ghaist disclosed his woeful tale, confessed the offences of his life, and making a summary exit from the view of his interrogator, was never again seen!—Some say that he was never heard of from the time he landed the "mammy wife," whose impertinent remarks regarding the peculiarities of his form, are supposed to have caused his departure! Be this as it may, the one story is, doubtless, as authentic as the other, and both versions still live in popular tradition.

—o—

SECTION V.

"Calm was the morn, and close the mist
Hung o'er St. Arnold's Seat,
As Ferne's sons gaed out to Saughs,
M'Gregor there to meet."

RAID O' FERNE.

THE most important historical tradition of Ferne is that which relates to the Raid, or Battle Saughs. This transaction belonging to "those days when might was right," and connected with Ferne only in regard that the parishioners were the actors; for "the battle field" lies within the confines of the parish of

Lethnot, near the head of the Water of Saughs. Although little more than a century has elapsed since "the cold red earth" closed over some of the principal heroes, the accounts of the transaction are as various, and the year in which it occurred as uncertain, as though it had belonged to prehistoric times—furnishing another convincing proof of the value of registering all incidents which in any way affect the civil or religious history of a district. One writer says that the affray took place "about the middle of the seventeenth century." Others fix the years 1703, 1708, 1709, and 1711 as the dates, but all on mere hearsay; and the accounts of the details of the action are as various as the dates. Still, as little can be added with accuracy to that already before the public, this notice will be mainly framed from these sources; for it would be worse than absurd to arrogate, in the absence of documentary evidence, anything more authentic than that which has been gleaned from the living chronicles of, at least, an age prior to our own.

It may be remarked, however, that as tradition is uniform in stating the age of the leader of the Ferne men (whose name was Macintosh, the son of a farmer in the parish), and that of all his followers, as being about twenty at the time, instead of fixing the period of the engagement at any of these dates, it ought, according to the age of James Winter (who was another of the actors), to be fixed somewhere about the year 1680, he being born in 1660. If Winter's age was an exception to that of the rest of his compeers (and from the great execution which he is said to have done with his *Andrea Ferara*,* there is reason to believe that he was older), the fixing of the date somewhere betwixt 1690 and 1700, when Winter was in the prime of life, may approach nearer the real period than any of the above. This notion is strengthened from the fact, that young Macintosh succeeded his father in the farm of Ledenhendrie in the year 1699,† and all story agrees that his father was alive at the time of the engagement.

The Raid of Saughs is attributed to a comparatively trivial matter belonging to a previous year, when, through the intrepidity of young Macintosh, the cattle of the farmer of the Dubb

* This sword is a genuine *Andrea Ferara*, and is three feet and a-half long, including the handle. It is in possession of Mr. Dickson of the Stamp and Tax Office, Kirriemuir, who had it from Winter's grand-nephew.

† *Southesk Rental Book*, quoted *ut sup.* p. 102.

of Ferne were rescued from a party of three freebooters. Perhaps from a determination to revenge this insult, a gang of thirteen Cateran, headed by the *Hawkit Stirk*,* made a summary descent on the district during the following spring. They stole in unperceived on the evening of a Sunday, and conducting their predatory labours during the silence of night, not only succeeded in clearing the stalls of horses and cattle before the domestics were astir, but were far over the mountains with their booty.

Infuriated by constant and disastrous incursions, and the general loss which the parish sustained on that particular occasion, the inhabitants were assembled on Monday morning, among the tombs of their fathers, by the ringing of the kirk bell. Being anxious to regain their stolen property, the day was spent in discussing the practicability of taking the proper course for doing so; but fearing the superior strength of their antagonists, courage forsook many of them, and the pursuit would have been wholly abandoned, and the reavers allowed to go with impunity, but for young Mackintosh, who felt so enraged at the cowardice of his fellow-parishioners, that he sprung to an eminence apart from them, and calling out at the top of his voice—"Let those who wish to chase the Cateran follow me!"—Eighteen young men left the multitude and rallied round him, and after making some hasty preparations for their perilous enterprise, they darted off in search of the reavers, having chosen Macintosh as their leader. The journey was long and arduous; but being well acquainted with the mountain tracks, and following the trodden path of their enemy through bogs and fens, they succeeded about daybreak in discovering the thieves, who were crowded round a blazing fire, on which they were quietly cooking a young cow for breakfast.

* The name of the *Hawkit Stirk* was given to this Cateran chief, from a supposition that he was the same person who was laid down, when an infant, at the farm-house door of Muir Pearsie, in the parish of Cortachy, and from the gudewife desiring her husband to rise from bed about midnight to see the cause of the bleating cries which she heard; but having a *pet calf* that was in the habit of prowling about under night, her husband lay still, insisting that the noise was merely the *croon o' the hawkit stirk*! Hearing a continuation of the same piteous moan, the gudewife rose herself and found a male child, of a few weeks old, lying on the sill of the door, carefully rolled in flannel, and other warm coverings, and, taking it under her charge, brought it up as one of her own family. Nothing of the foundling or his parents were ever positively known; but when about sixteen years of age, he departed clandestinely from Muir Pearsie, and from the resemblance of the leader of this herschip to him, they are said to have been one and the same individual. His name is variously given as M'Gregor and Cameron.

The place was a perfect wilderness—a boundless expanse of moss and moor—intersected by natural cairns of flinty rocks and the rugged channels of rivulets, without the remotest sign of shelter. By wary steps, the Ferne men succeeded in reaching within a hundred yards of the freebooters, who thought that a few sharp and aimless shots would frighten them away. This they were the more convinced of, since one of the party, throwing his “lang gun” from him, fled from the contest; but the main body remaining firm, the leader of the herschip stepped forward and ironically requested to know, Which of them was the leader? Macintosh boldly acknowledged the honour; and the Cateran’s doubts being set at rest on that particular, it was mutually agreed to determine the matter by single combat. The chief, smiling, no doubt, at the idea of Macintosh’s boldness, pictured the misery and death which were likely to follow a pitched engagement, and playfully cutting two or three buttons from the breast of the young farmer’s coat with the blade of his sword—telling him at same time that he could as easily deprive him of life, as take away those trifling appendages—he urged the propriety of the pursuers retiring in peace.

Matters remained in this undecided state for some time; but, either wilfully or accidentally, some of the Cateran fired, and the ball taking effect, killed one of the Ferne men. This was the signal for a general onset, and the chief and Macintosh closed in desperate and deadly combat, as did the rest; and the powerful hand of the Cateran, though resisted with wonderful tact by his unequal opponent, would soon have prevailed, but for the assistance of James Winter, who ran to the aid of Macintosh, and stealing behind the chief, hamstrung him unawares, and brought him to the ground, when, like brave Witherington of Chevy Chase, and fair Lilliard of Ancrum,

“his leggs being smitten off,
He fought upon his stumps !”

Fully aware of the defenceless state in which he lay, the wounded chieftain made several desperate aims at Macintosh, (for by this time Winter had been re-assailed), but all attempts to mow Macintosh down having failed, and the Cateran’s sword breaking on a stone, he solicited, as a dying request, that Macintosh would bid him farewell. This was frankly assented to, and

while the Cateran grasped his unsuspecting victim with one hand, he secretly drew a dagger from his side with the other. Macintosh being timeously apprised by some of his followers of this, hastily relinquished his hold, and thrusting his sword into the breast of the wily chief, finished what had been so tragically begun by Winter.

Seeing their chief overpowered, and several of their clansmen weltering in gore, the surviving Cateran fled in dismay; but none are supposed to have escaped. One of them, named Donald Young, was so severely wounded, that though able to fly a short distance, he ultimately fell and expired at a hill east of "the battle field," which has ever since been called "Donald Young's Shank." Only one of the pursuers was killed, and two or three wounded: all the dead were buried where they fell; and, about forty years ago, when the banks of Saughs were broken by a flood, some of their bones were exposed to view.

The cattle and other spoils were collected together by the victors, who proceeded slowly on their homeward march. Meanwhile the dissentient part of the parishioners, reflecting over the risk which the gallant handful had hazarded, assembled in considerable number, and proceeded to their assistance; but they were barely beyond the bounds of their own parish, when they beheld their friends and the lowing herschip returning home.

The boldness of Macintosh and Winter was the talk of surrounding districts; and the former, being the leader, and the one above all others on whom the friends of the vanquished would wreak their vengeance, his landlord, the Earl of Southesk, is said to have been so pleased with his achievements, that he erected a strongly fortified dwelling for him, and made him Captain of the parish, which office had been long held by Ogilvy, tenant of Trusto,* who, on this occasion, was one of the party who declined to follow the Cateran.

These precautions of the Earl were not without their use; for on more than one occasion, Ledenhendrie was assaulted by his old enemies, under whose attacks he might have fallen but for the security of his dwelling. It is related, that on spending an hour one evening with Ogilvy, who ever bore him hatred, the latter

* David Ogilvy was tenant of Trusto from 1691 to 1709.—His name does not appear in the rent roll of 1710.

thrice called at the top of his voice—"Gude-nicht Ledenhendrie!"—when parting with him at the door of Trusto. Macintosh, suspecting no harm, proceeded leisurely on his way home, but on reaching a solitary part of the road he discovered the diabolical meaning of Trusto's vociferations, and, ere he had time to bethink himself, was surprised by a party who lay in wait for him. He was, unfortunately, unarmed, and accompanied by a favourite dog; but, luckily, the night was dark, and being well acquainted with the route, he contrived by his agile step to gain the crevice of a rock in the den of Trusto, into which he and his dog got safely ensconced. As if instinctively aware of his master's jeopardy (although the pursuers were so near that Ledenhendrie could distinctly hear their conversation), his trusty companion remained, as he did himself, in breathless silence until daybreak, when both reached home.—This niche has ever since been known as "Ledenhendrie's chair."

Trusto's perfidy was not lost on the subsequent conduct of Ledenhendrie's life, though it tended greatly to increase his uneasiness of mind; for from that night to the day of his death he went neither to kirk nor fair without weapons of defence. Even in church, he no sooner entered his pew (which was placed so as to command the door, and evade any assault from the windows), than he laid his unsheathed sword and loaded pistols on the desk before him; but it is not known that he ever had a fair opportunity of calling them into use, although several clandestine attempts were made on his life—more, it is believed, through Trusto's emissaries, than those of the reavers.

As might have been anticipated, Macintosh and Winter were bosom friends ever after, and, in the true spirit of attached clansmen, they agreed that whoever died first, the survivor should conduct the funeral, and have it attended with a bag-piper, and other warlike accompaniments, consonant to the times. Winter was the first to drop, and Ledenhendrie religiously performed the last sad duties, and had the *coronach*, or dirge, played over his grave. A handsome monument, of the old table fashion, was immediately raised to his memory, bearing the sculpture of a sword and buckler on a shield, with this inscription:—

"I. W. 1732.—This stone was erected by Alexander Winter, tennent in the Doaf [? Doal] in memory of JAMES WINTER, his father's brother,

who died on Peathaugh, in the parish of Glenisla, the 3d January 1732, aged 72.

Here lyes James Vinter, who died in Peathaugh,
Who fought most valointly at y^e Water of Saughs,
Along w^t Ledenhendry, who did command y^e day—
They Vanquis the Enemy and made them runn away.”

This tombstone is yet entire, near the south-east corner of the kirk of Cortachy, and has recently been revised by some rude but grateful hand. Ledenhendrie was buried within the church of Ferne, but no memorial points out the spot of his repose.—So far from this, his reputed targe, which hung on the church wall near his grave was cast forth at the rebuilding of the present edifice, and trodden under foot—his fortified residence erased, and the very stone which bore his initials, “I. M.” and the date “1708,” thrown aside and lost!

The want of a monument to Ledenhendrie is the more to be regretted, since a similar notice as that over Winter not only would have told a tale of gratitude and respect, which the circumstances demanded, but would have settled the era of the engagement, as all agree that he was not less than eighteen nor above nineteen years of age at the period. As it is, the whole affair appears to have much the air of romance, and is so destitute of authentic details, that the humble tomb of Winter is the only genuine record of it in existence.*

The district of Ferne, so far as known, has little to boast of in the way of prehistoric traces, though a few warlike remains, and the old names of places, would favour the supposition of the parish having been the scene of some unrecorded engagement. The discovery of stone coffins and urns in various parts, particularly at a place called Drumcuthlaw, or the “law of the battle ridge;” and the existence of large rude stones at Haerpit-haugh (i. e. “the boundary haugh of the pit or grave), having much the appearance of bound or march stones, would imply something of this sort. It is certain that nothing has been found on the Law of Windsor, or Ferne (as the conspicuous knoll on the farm of Hilton is indiscriminately called), within the last half

* The various accounts of “the Battle of Saughs,” are the Rev. Mr. Harris’ “Ledenhendrie;” Mr. Alex. Laing’s (of Stracathro) ballad “The Raid of Fearn;” and some anonymous articles in Chambers’ *Edinr. Journal*, and the *Montrose Review*, &c.

century, which in any way relates to prehistoric times, though the appearance of the place seems not only to indicate an artificial origin, but has much of the peculiarity of the conical-shaped barrow. These ancient sepulchral tumuli are rare, and according to Catullus, appertain to females.*

Primitive dwellings are said to have been found in different parts of the parish, and, according to the writer of the New Statistical Account, consist of a circle of moderately sized stones, enclosing an area of from nine to twenty feet, and upwards, with the exterior packed by earth and stones to the breadth of three or four feet, and the interior, or floor, laid with clay or mortar, mixed sometimes with stones. Traces of the action of fire were found at the middle of these enclosures, and on some of the largest stones. The fragment of a quern was dug from one, and a stone coffin found in the vicinity of another.

These primitive dwellings are believed to have been the abode of the aborigines of Caledonia, and some of them were found in the upper parts of Lethnot, near Waterhead, but differing from those of Ferne in so far as they were scooped out of the mountain side, and the entrance levelled to the adjacent ground. These, however, are popularly believed to have been made by shepherds as shelters from the storm. Perhaps they were so ; but it is worthy of notice, that they are of the same form as the so-called "primitive dwellings" in distant parts of Scotland, which are found singly and in clusters, as the lone shepherd's cot, and the highland *clachan* or village. They are most plentiful in tracts of spongy moss and arid heath, and in solitudes where the plough has never penetrated ; but as ages have elapsed since they were the scene of busy life, the richness of the soil has so greatly fostered vegetation, that it is matter of great difficulty to discover their sites, and, but for their hard-crusted burnt-like floors, they can scarcely be distinguished from *bothies* or illicit distilleries, or, as already mentioned, from shepherds' sheltering places.

* Fosbroke's *Encyc. of Antiquities*, p. 544.



CHAPTER VI.

Caraldstone, or Careston.

SECTION I.

"Sir Alexander Carnegie built a very fyne little church, and a fyne minister's manse, upon his own expenses, and doted a stipend, and gave a gleib thureto, out of his own estate."—OOSTERLONT.

"Blest be the man that spares these stones,
And curst be he that moves my bones."

ON SHAKSPEARE'S TOMB AT STRATFORD.

THERE are various theories as to the origin of the name of Caraldstone, or Careston. In the old Statistical Account, it is derived from the Ossianic hero, Carril, who is said to have been killed in the neighbourhood, and to have had a monument erected to him, which was represented by three large rude stones towards the close of last century. These stood on a hillock about a mile south-east of the church, near the farm-house of Nether Careston, but being destroyed many years ago, the site is barely traceable, though the story of the fall of Carril (who has been metamorphosed into the leader of a band of Danish fugitives), still lingers in the neighbourhood.* It is also said that Careston was known at one time by the name of Fuirdstone. This is assumed from a decret of valuation of the teinds in 1758, in which the expression occurs of "the lands and barony of Caraldstone, *formerly* called Fuirdstone, with the tower, fortalice, manor place," &c. But according to Lord Spynie's charter of the lands in 1606, this passage admits of a different and more likely interpretation, and merely signifies that *a part* of the lands of Careston were so called.†

In the Preface to the Registrum de Aberbrothoc, attention is directed to a different and more probable source:—"A person of the name of Bricius occurs in very early charters as 'judex' of Angus, probably holding his office under the great Earls. In 1219, Adam was 'judex' of the Earls' court. Some years later

* New Stat. Acct. of Forfars.

† Orig. *Dubedom of Montrose Cass*, p. 218.

he became 'judex' of the King's court, and his brother Keraldus succeeded to his office in the court of the Earl; for in the year 1227, we find the brothers acting together, and styled respectively 'judex' of Angus, and 'judex' of our Lord the King. The dwelling of Keraldus received the name of 'Keraldiston,' now Caraldstoun; and the office of 'judex' becoming heritable, and taking its Scotch title of 'Dempster,' gave name to the family who for many generations held the lands of Caraldstoun and performed the office of Dempster to the Parliaments of Scotland."

The parish of Careston is of recent origin, and formed a part of that of Brechin down to a late period. The site of the kirk is said to have been a place of family interment from a remote age; and, although a church was built here in 1636, the act for erecting the district into a separate parish was not obtained until the year 1641, when, on Sir Alexander Carnegy of Balnamoon (who was sole heritor, holding under the superiority of Maule of Panmure, as proprietor of the Lordship of Brechin and Navar), "takand christeanlie to his consideration the ignorance of his tennentis, and seriowslie pondering with him self, fynding the case, cause, and occasion thereof to proceid frome the distance of thair dwelling to thair parochie kirk of Brechine, and that be consent of the ministers of Brechine, it was thought expedient that the said lands of Carrestoun et Pitforkie should be disjoynted from the said parochie of Brechine, and erected into ane severell and distinct parochie be it self."*

The erection of the parish was strongly opposed by Sir Patrick Maule, the minister of Navar, and the Commissioner of Brechin, in name of that burgh and parish; still, the General Assembly "appoints and ordanes the inhabitants of the saids lands, with the pertinents, to repair to the Newe kirk, built be the said Sir Alexander vpon the saids lands of Carrestoun, as thair parochie kirk in all tyme thairefter, for divine service, receaveing of the sacraments, and to vse the kirkyard thereof for buriell of thair dead."† Carnegy reserved the patronage of the kirk to himself, and the stipend was paid out of the teind sheaves of Careston, Pitforkie, and Balnabreich, and amounted to forty-five bolls, two firlots, victual, two parts meal, and third part

* Acts of Parliament, A.D. 1641.

† *Ibid.*

bear, and forty-five pounds Scots money, "as the samene are and hes been in vse to pay yeirlie to the late pretendit Bishope of Brechine."*

The "fyne little church," as Ochterlony calls it, of 1636, is still a substantial plain building of one storey, and is composed of a transept, with an aisle on the north side. The aisle has a special entrance from the west, is the pew of the laird's family and domestics, and immediately in front of the pulpit, elevated about two feet above the floor of the transept, from which it is separated by a plain oaken front. A twisted pillar of painted wood rises on each side, and forms the support of the roof of the church at its junction with that of the aisle. The burial vault, which is below the aisle, is entered from the transept by a flight of steps.

Although of recent foundation, we are unable to give the names of the early clergymen of Careston, for, although the Presbytery Record begins on the 1st of August 1662, there is no mention of this parish until the 11th of January 1666, when the Presbytery appointed certain of its members to preach in the "kirk of Carrotston, now vaiccand by absence of the minister." This minister was, perhaps, Mr. Alexander Carnegie, for in October 1681, a clergyman of that name was translated from Careston "to a kirk in the south," and was succeeded by Mr. John Murray in March 1682. This gentleman, and his assistant, Mr. Alexander Lindsay, were among the "Jacobite intruders" who caused their brethern considerable annoyance on the abolition of Episcopacy.

As Careston is the least of any parish in Angus-shire, both as regards extent and population, and the fifth-least in the kingdom, the kirk and graveyard are correspondingly small. Still, the tombstones were once numerous, and manifested as much regard for the memory of departed relatives, as that shewn in more extensive localities; but George Skene, the late proprietor, with a very questionable taste, had the whole of them thrown from the graveyard, and in course of time they were mostly broken to pieces, or used for drain covers! The few now remaining were taken from the common heap, and set up in their present position after the laird's death. One of these (erected in 1755), as if anti-

* Acts of Parl., Ratification of Mortification, Nov. 2, 1641.

icipating Skene's sacrilegious doings, bears this unambiguous request, which will remind the reader of the lines on the tombstone of Shakspeare, quoted at the head of this Chapter :—

“ This stone doth hold these corps of mine,
While I ly buried here ;
None shal molest nor wrong this stone,
Except my freinds that near.
My flesh and bones lyes in Earth's womb,
Wntill Judgment do appear,
And then I shall be raised again
To meet my Saviour dear.”

The discarded tombs were supplanted by small stones which were built round the walls of the graveyard, containing merely the names of the various farms in the parish. The present incumbent says, that these were executed by the laird himself, and polished by his son, David, who was a druggist by profession. Perhaps the most generally interesting memorial now left, however, is the following simple record of the Reverend John Gillies, who was the first minister of the parish after the final abolition of Episcopacy :—

“ In memory of Mr. JOHN GILLIES, who was ordained minister of Car-raldston Sept 1716, died 1st March 1753, aged 72, and of six of his children ” [here named] “ his spouse, Mary Watson, survives him, as also five of his children, viz^t John, minister of Glasgow, Robert, merchant in Brechin, and Mary, Isabel, and Janet Gillies's.”

Mr. Gillies was a native of the west country, and the first of his race, for seven generations (as he told an old parishioner), who forsook the needle and the bodkin. He was a licentiate of the Presbytery of Wigton, where he taught a school for some time ;* and, on the removal of the parochial teacher of Ferne in 1716, “ for his accession to the late rebellion,” Mr. Gillies succeeded him on the recommendation of Professor Hamilton of Edinburgh, having shewn himself qualified to the Presbytery, and acceptable to “ the heritors of his parish who are not fled from the Rebellion.”† He only remained at Ferne about six months, when, on the people of Careston promising to “ be passive,” and refusing to have any hand in calling a minister, though they had been without one for seven or eight years, the Presby-

* *Presbytery Rec. of Brechin, May 30, 1716.*

† *Ibid.*

tery elected Mr. Gillies to that charge on the 29th of August, where he was ordained on the 18th of the following month.

It was many years after his induction, however, until the parish could boast either of a kirk session or schoolhouse; for the church served the double purpose of kirk and school until 1738, and the parochial affairs were managed by the minister and a committee of the Presbytery until 1733, when elders and office-bearers were chosen for the first time. This had, perhaps, been hastened by the refusal of Lord Menzies to pay the Lady of Balnamoon's mortification to the poor, until a kirk session was chosen. This mortification was made so far back as 1704, and became payable from the lands on Mrs. Carnegy's death; but Stewart of Grandtully, Carnegy's successor in the property, refused to do so until compelled by law in 1733.

The want of a session, however, had perhaps arisen mainly from the strong feeling in favour of the proscribed faith, which long lingered in the district; for although Mr. Gillies was admitted to the parish church without any disturbance, an Episcopal meeting was regularly held at Whiteside down to past the middle of last century. It is pleasing to observe, however, that while Mr. Gillies and his colleagues were liberal to their own party—such as the ill-starred “relict of the late Mr. Buchan, minister of St. Kilda,”—an old veteran recommended by the Assembly, who had spent his time in the army, from the Restoration to the peace of Utrecht—a poor stranger who had been reduced to frailty and want, and “suffered much from his good affection to the church and state,”—they were also mindful of their opponents, the Episcopal clergymen and highland gentlemen, several of whom had their claims allowed from the poor's box, as had also “Hugh Douglas, son to the late Earl of Morton,” who had a “recommend from one as having lost much at sea.”* All these exhibit, in simple, but expressive language, the sad distress into which the persecutions of the times had thrown, not only the Episcopal clergy of the period, but many others whose feelings could ill brook the sad reverses which forced them to crave charity from the hand of strangers.

* [*Parish Reg.*, 1720-21-23, &c.] This Hugh Douglas may have been a natural son, or, perhaps, an impostor, there being no legitimate son of Morton, so named at the time referred to, nor for several generations before that. The eleventh, or “late Earl,” died unmarried in 1715.

But, to return: The above stone to the memory of Mr. Gillies has greater claim to our notice, and is more generally interesting, than may at first sight appear. Though known for little individually, farther than discharging the duties of his responsible office with acceptance to his parishioners during a time of great difficulty, he is remarkable as the founder of a race who have become popular in the higher walks of literature and other dignified studies. A brief notice of some of these men may not be unacceptable to the reader.

The tombstone records the birth of eleven children, of whom two sons and three daughters only arrived at puberty; and the initials and date "I·G : M·W· 1716," rudely cut on the outside of the minister's pew, is, perhaps, an essay at carving by the hand of his eldest son, John, the future Doctor of Divinity. This eminent divine, who wrote the "Life of George Whitfield," and "Historical Collections of the Success of the Gospel," was born two years before the time his father's settlement in Angus, and was probably a native of Wigton. He was ordained to the South Parish of Glasgow in 1742, where he continued for the long period of forty-four years, and had a numerous family, one of whom was minister of Paisley, and his only child by his second wife, married the Hon. Colonel Leslie, second son of the Earl of Leven.

But, it is to the family of his brother Robert, merchant in Brechin, and ultimately proprietor of Little Keithock, and the mill lands adjoining, that the name of Gillies owes its celebrity. His wife was Margaret Smith, the daughter of a merchant of the same city, by whom he had a large family of sons and daughters. John, the eldest, was the well-known historian of Greece, and author of many other works. On completing the rudimentary part of his education at Brechin, he went to Glasgow, resided with his uncle during the University Session, and spent his summers at home, "studying in his father's garret," being rarely seen either by his own family or others, save in the evenings, when he took an airing in the neighbouring fields. This excessive application had its reward; and before reaching his twentieth year, he attained such proficiency in the Greek language, that he was appointed teacher of the University class during Professor Moore's last illness, and would have succeeded to that

chair on Moore's death, but for his preferring a journey to the Continent, whither he went as guardian to the sons of the Earl of Hopetoun;—the Earl being much pleased with Mr. Gillies' conduct towards them, settled a handsome annuity on him for life. Being thus placed beyond the remotest view of pecuniary want, he thenceforward prosecuted his studies in ease and comparative affluence, and devoted himself entirely to literary pursuits. The most popular of his numerous works was the "History of Ancient Greece;" and on the death of Dr. Robertson, he was appointed Historiographer Royal for Scotland, and died in 1836, at the advanced age of ninety.

Though his pursuits were of a classical, and historical character, he had a clear perception of the ludicrous, and entertained his friends with couplets descriptive of the peculiarities of the more singular *characters* of his native town. These, unfortunately, have been altogether lost with the exception of that undernoted: The party here epitaphized (who was alive when the couplet was written), was bred a shoemaker, but being "a lazy sutor," he preferred the more exhilarating avocation of a *courier*, and other out-of-door exercises, to his immediate calling, and was a maternal relative of the Doctor's. The following is the epitaph referred to:—

"Here lies John Smith, shoemaker by trade,
Who wore more shoes than ever he made!"

Dr. Gillies' youngest brother, Adam, was called to the bar in 1787, appointed Sheriff of Kincardineshire in 1806, and, though a Whig, was raised to the bench in 1811, during the administration of the unfortunate Mr. Perceval. He had a grave austere demeanour, and was considered a judge of high authority—of few words, and terse argumentation; and, unlike his learned predecessors, who loved to use the broad Scotch dialect, he affected an ignorance of it, and assumed the more dignified English vernacular. While on the circuit on one occasion, a case came before him, in which some of the witnesses examined were natives of Brechin. In course of the evidence, one of them, an old man who had known Gillies from his infancy, happened to give the name of the article *hat*, the sharp provincial accentuation of *hét*. His lordship immediately interrogated the deponent

—“What do you mean by a *hét*, Sir?” “I thoct,” said the unabashed witness, “that yer honour had been lang enuch about Brechin to ken what a *hét* was !”

Mr. Gillies was counsel for some of the political martyrs of the early part of this century, and by the distinguished and able manner in which he conducted the defence, he established that reputation for talent which eventually led to his promotion to the bench. He held office until within a few weeks of his death, which occurred at Leamington, in 1842, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, and his body was conveyed to Edinburgh, and buried in the Greyfriars' Churchyard.

Though by no means a lover of the place of his nativity, which perhaps arose from the misfortunes which subsequently attended an elder brother, he was the steady and unflinching benefactor of his less opulent relatives, and at the time of his death, left a respectable annuity to his nephew, Robert Pearce Gillies, of literary notoriety.

His brother, Colin, was the most enterprising provincial flour and corn dealer of his time, and, in his hey-day had, perhaps, more influence than any individual trader connected with Forfar or Kincardine-shire ever enjoyed. Throughout both of these counties he had extensive spinning, bleaching, and weaving factories, and farmed a large extent of land, besides being proprietor of Murlingden, near Brechin, and of house property to a great amount in most of the towns of Angus and Mearns. He was also projector of the porter brewery at Brechin, in itself a lucrative concern; and he contributed the valuable statistics of the linen trade of Angus to Sir John Sinclair's gigantic and useful work; and, for several years, enjoyed the office of chief magistrate of his native city. Matters, however, were suddenly reversed, and his failure, which occurred in the year 1811, sank the north-eastern and western portions of the shires of Angus and Mearns into a state of ruin, which has never been thoroughly overcome. Under the judicious management of Mr. Greenhill of Ferne, who was the principal creditor, Mr. Gillies's estate yielded a little more than half payment, which was beyond all anticipation; and although Lord Gillies was personally involved to a large amount, he felt so sensible of the value of Mr. Greenhill's services, and the loss he sustained be-

yond other creditors, that he pledged himself to remunerate him to some extent if ever he had it in his power. On the death of Mrs. Hay Mudie of Newton and Pitforthly, many years afterwards, Lord Gillies being left a handsome legacy, an opportunity was afforded of fulfilling his promise, and, with a nobleness of heart, and honour worthy of all praise, he immediately forwarded a thousand pounds, begging the favour of Mr. Greenhill's acceptance of it in fulfilment of his promise !

Thomas, who was bred a surgeon, and went to India, was the father of Robert Pearce Gillies, now so well known in literature. He amassed a large fortune, and on returning home purchased the estate, and built the mansion-house, of Balmakewan in the Mearns, which property his son sold, on coming of age. Dr. Thomas Gillies was a man of great benevolence, but singularly eccentric habits, and in honour of his son, or, perhaps, of Colonel Pearce (an intimate acquaintance in the Indian army), he named a part of Brechin, where he held considerable property, "Pearce Street," by which name it is still known.

While residing in his town house in Brechin one winter, a band of strolling players located themselves in the Mason Lodge, which was immediately opposite his residence, and thither he went one evening to while away the time ; but having placed himself close to the stage, the master of the ceremonies was reluctantly compelled to request him to retire. This was insisted upon without success ; and after a good deal of altercation, the Doctor, raising himself on tip-toe, gruffly enquired of his antagonist, "Don't *you* know who *I* am, Sir?—*I'm Doctor Gillies from Bengal!*" "Though you were Doctor Faustus from the devil," rejoined the humble representative of Thespis, giving him a shove to the front seats, "you shan't stand there !" Of his eminent son, little can be added to the interesting and unvarnished statement which he gives of his own chequered and unfortunate career. He was born at Brechin in 1789, called to the Scotch bar in 1812, and subsequently adopted literature as a profession—his after history is told by himself in his late curious work of the "*Memoirs of a Literary Veteran*," to which the reader is referred.

Thus, it will be seen, "the mantle" has descended on the Gillies family to an almost incredible extent. Another brother,

William, who was engaged with Colin in porter brewing, was father to Misses Margaret and Mary Gillies of London—the one is known as a successful miniature painter, and the other as a contributor to the periodical press. While of the female branch, one married Henry William Tytler, translator of “*Callimachus*,” and another was mother to Colvin Smith, portrait painter in Edinburgh, whose father (a cousin of his mother) was sometime a merchant and baillie in Brechin, and long held the office of postmaster there. Still, strange to say, notwithstanding the former opulence and importance of the Gillieses, the very surname is now unknown in the district.



SECTION II.

“Of known renown, and Chieftains of their name.”

DON, A POEM.

THE surname of “Dempster,” as before mentioned, originated from the office of “*judex*,” or *Dempster* to the Parliament; but it is uncertain at what period it was first assumed. Haldan de Emester, or Demester, of the county of Perth, swore fealty to Edward in 1296,* and this is the earliest instance of the surname with which we have met. It was assumed by the lairds of Careston (in its present form) before 1360, when they and the Collaces became portioners of Menmuir.† In 1370, David Dempster of Careston was a perambulator of marches near Arbroath, and bound himself to the Abbot of that Monastery, of which he was justiciary, to provide a qualified deputy. On the resignation of this office by his grandson, it was conferred on the Earl of Crawford, whose extravagance prompted the Convent to supplant him, and appoint Ogilvy of Inverquhar—*a circumstance which gave rise to the battle between the Ogilvys and Lindsays at Arbroath, already noticed.*

The office of heritable Dempster to the Parliaments was confirmed to Andrew Dempster of Careston by Robert II. in 1379,‡ and from the irregularity with which the fees attached thereto were paid, a glimpse is afforded of the sources from which the payments were derived. This action was raised before the Lords Auditors

* Ragman Rolls, p. 128.

† Reg. Mag. Sig.

‡ Baronage.

by David Dempster, who claimed “(tene pundis) amerciament of fee ilk parliament,” and the like sum, it is presumed, “of ilk Justice Are” held in Forfarshire, and “amerciament zereley of the extrect of the Sheref’s Court of the sammyn,” which the “lordis Auditoris thinkis that he suld be paid efter the forme of his infestment, maid be King Robert vnder the gret sele schawin et productit.”*

The father of the last mentioned David, was the first of the name who acquired the lands of Pitforthly, near Brechin, which he held by charter from James II. in 1450.† This, with the adjoining farms of Ardo, Bothers (now Cairnbank), and Adecat, were anciently church lands, and formed part of those which were alienated from the Cathedral of Brechin by peculating officials; but James III., in his determination to restore the church’s property, had Dempster cited before the Lords of Council in 1464, as the wrongous possessor of these lands, all of which he was ordered to reconvey to the church. To this he agreed in the humiliating posture of bended knee, and having his hands closed within those of the Bishop.‡

Although thus penitent, and reinstated in part, if not in the whole of these lands, for the payment of a life-rent feu duty, Dempster seems to have had little love either for the kirk or the Bishop, for soon after this, in 1467, he was again summoned by “the Reverend Fader,” for the “spoliacioune of iiij xx nolt” from the lands of Ardo, and a horse from those of Pitforthly, over which it would appear (from the fact that a deliverance was given against Dempster with costs), the Bishop had retained the privilege of grazing.

Ever and anon this lording spirit was manifesting itself in Dempster’s character, whether in the oppression of the widow or other heartless outrages; and he and his brother, joining in the mischievous and daring enterprises of the profligate sons of the Duke of Montrose, were of the sacrilegious party who carried off “twa monkis” and some horses, belonging to the Abbey of Cupar; and, for this “hurting of the priuilege and fredome of hali kirk,” they were both ordered to place themselves in ward in the respective castles of Dunbarton and Berwick. Perhaps the aid which Dempster of Careston and his brother afforded

* Acta Auditorum, July 18, 1476, p. 53.

† Baronage, p. 351.

‡ Hist. of Brechin, p. 22.

the young Crawfords in their lawlessness and rapine, induced their father to thrust Dempster out of the farms of Glen-effock and Pettintoscall,* of which he was life-renter, and to take forcible possession of a number of his oxen and kye; but, so far from the Duke succeeding in this, his adversary was ordained to "broek and joise the tak all the dayis of his life," without vexation or trouble.†

Emboldened with success, Dempster now directed his energies to the annoyance of the Duke and the summary ejection of his tenantry; and, among others, he turned John Guthrie out of "the tak and maling of the landis of Petpowoks," in the lordship of Brechin. In this the Dempsters were found at fault, and ordered to reinstate Guthrie in his possession, of which he produced a tack signed by the Duke.‡

This polemical laird, who was fifth in descent from David first named, added largely to his possessions in the north, having had charters of the lordship of Muireisk and other parts from James III. in 1481, from which period the family were promiscuously designed of Auchterless and Muireisk.§ He was succeeded by his son William, who is the last designed "of Caroldstoun," of which he had charters in 1529, as also of the lands and mill of Pitmois, in the regality of Kirriemuir.|| He died soon after, and although the last of the name specially designed of Careston, the family had an interest in the locality down to a much later period; for among the charters belonging to the city of Brechin, David Dempster "fiar of Peathill," appears as a witness under date 1597.¶

We are not aware of the precise time that the barony of Careston fell to the Lindsays, but it is certain that Sir Henry Lindsay of Kinfauns, afterwards thirteenth Earl of Crawford,

* Perhaps this is the Pentaaskall of a later period, which lay in old times in the lordship of Brechin, and was subsequently part of the barony of Kinnauld. In 1691, *et sub.*, there was a place there called "Bantascall," and the burn which flows from Forebank through the deer park, the wood, and cow park, and joins another stream near the garden of Kinnauld, is named "the burn of Pintassle."

† Acta Dom. Concilli, June 20, 1493, and July 1, 1494.

‡ *Ibid.*, Dec. 9, 1494.

§ Baronage, p. 582.

|| *Ibid.*

¶ Thomas Dempster, the celebrated author of "*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum*," &c., was of the Muireisk family, and commonly, but apparently erroneously, said to have been born at Brechin. The real place of his birth was the mansion house of Cliftbog, in Aberdeenshire. He was the twenty-fourth out of twenty-nine children, which his mother, a daughter of Lesly of Balquhain, bore to his father.—*Irving's Lives of Scottish Writers*, p. 347. Dempster of Dunichen and Skibo, is also said to be descended from a younger son of Muireisk.

was in possession before the close of the sixteenth century, since on the 17th of January 1600, Janet Forrester, with consent of her son, granted an annual of forty-five merks out of a part of the lands of Balnabreithe to Henry Lindsay *de Carraldstoun*, and his heirs.* Only eight years thereafter, Sir Henry resigned Careston, Nether Careston, and Balnabreich, and the barony and lordship of Kinfauns, in favour of his eldest son Sir John, Knight of the Bath, as *fiar*, but under his father's life-rent.† Sir John predeceased his father about 1615, and leaving no male issue, the property reverted to him; and, in 1618, he obtained a bond of reversion over Careston and Finhaven from William Forbes of Craigievar.‡ About 1630, the lands of Shielhill, in the parish of Kirriemuir, and Easter Balnabreich were sold by Earl George (Earl Henry's son) to John Ramsay,§ who had been laird of the western part of the last named property for some time before. Lord Spynie relieved Craigievar's bond at the same period, and thus became proprietor of Careston and Finhaven at much the same time.

Long before this, however, in 1595, Sir Alexander Carnegy, uncle to the first Earl of Southesk, afterwards proprietor of Balnamoon, had a charter of half the lands of Balnabreich;|| and being a lawyer of eminence, is *said* to have received the barony of Careston in lieu of the expenses of a lawsuit which he is represented to have carried on in behalf of the Lindsays.¶

Sir John Stewart of Grandtully and Murthly, succeeded the Carnegys in Careston by purchase, in 1707. His arms, with the date 1714, still decorate the front of the castle; and during the proprietorship of this family, much of the carved work was added to the house. They were, descended through a daughter of Lord Bute, from a second son of Alexander, the Lord High Steward of Scotland in the time of Alexander II. and III., his eldest brother, the seventh Lord High Steward, being the illustrious personage from whom "the Royal Stuart" deduced their descent. Grandtully was acquired in the reign of James I. The first baronet was a senator of the College of Justice, and, by the marriage of his grandson with Lady Jane Douglas, only daughter of the penultimate Duke of Douglas, the famous "Douglas Cause" arose, whereby her son, Archibald, succeeded to the immense

* *Crauford Case*, p. 82.

† *Ibid.*, p. 84.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 84.

§ *Ibid.*, p. 91.

|| Douglas' Peerage.

¶ New Stat. Acct., Forfars.

estates of the Duke of Douglas—the title of Duke having merged into that of Hamilton. He was created Baron Douglas in 1790, however, was long Lord-Lieutenant of Forfarshire, and father to the present Baron.

Careston again changed hands in 1720, and became, by purchase, the property of Major Skene, a cadet of the old family of that Ilk. This family enjoyed the estate of Skene from father to son in nearly uninterrupted succession, for more than six hundred years, down to the late period of 1828, when the last direct male descendant died. The first who bore the surname is said to have been a younger son of Donald of the Isles, who, according to tradition, saved Malcolm II. from being torn to pieces by an enraged wolf that chased him from the forest of Kilblein in Marr to the burn of Broadtach, now within the boundary of the town of Aberdeen. At this point, the wolf came up with the King, and was just about to spring upon him, when the gallant youth, “wrapping his plaid about his left arm, and rushing in betwixt the king and the wolf, thrust his left arm into the wolf’s mouth, and drawing his *skene*—which in the Gaelic language signifies a dirk or knife—struck it to the wolf’s heart, and then cut off its head and presented it to King Malcolm.”* For this meritorious service he had a large grant of land in Aberdeenshire, including the parish of Skene, and took his surname from the dirk or knife. This lucky instrument, it is said, is still preserved among the family muniments.

This tradition, though strengthened, as are those of other ancient families, by armorial insignia, is as incredible as it is romantic. The first genuine notice of the race occurs in the time of the disputed monarchy, during which, in 1290, “Johanes Skene” was an arbitrator between Bruce and Baliol; and in 1296, the same person and “Patrik de Skene” (probably a son, for they were both of Aberdeenshire), were among the barons who swore fealty to Edward.† So far from the *whole* property of Skene having continued in the family from the time of Malcolm, it appears, from a roll of missing charters by Robert I., that he gave “Alexander Frazer of Cluny the lands of Cardnye, with the fishing of the Loch of Skene,”‡ which had, doubtless, formed part of the estate. At all events, “the great

* Baronage, p. 555.

† Ragman Rolls, p. 154.

‡ Robertson’s Index, p. 16.

loch of Skene" is a portion of the *traditional* grant of Malcolm. This charter of the fishing to Frazer is dateless; but was given sometime before 1318, as in that year the same patriotic prince made a grant to Robert de Skene for his service and homage, of "*omnes et singulas terras de Skene et lacum ejusdem*," proving that this was the period that the family had their charter of the lands and loch of Skene, and the first time, so far as known, that they received a royal acknowledgment of their services; although, from the designation *de Skene*, they must either have been vassals, or portioners of the lordship, prior to the year 1290.

The first of the race, who figured in the subsequent achievements of the kingdom, was Adam de Skene, who married a daughter of Keith Marischal. He raised a force against the invasion of Donald of the Isles at Harlaw, and fell there; and the heads of the family shared the same fate at the subsequent battles of Flodden and Pinkie. James Skene, who succeeded his father in 1634, was a staunch loyalist, and, like others of his exiled countrymen, served in the ten years' war under Gustavus Adolphus.—His second son joined the Covenanters, was taken prisoner at Rutherglen, and executed at the Grassmarket of Edinburgh on the 1st of December 1680.*

It was George Skene, grand-nephew of the last-mentioned James, an officer of distinction during the wars of Queen Anne, who purchased the estate of Careston from the Grandtully family. He had two daughters, one of them married the laird of Skene, her own cousin-german, the other Sir John Forbes of Foveran; and both being married at the same time, their father willed that his estate of Careston should pass to the daughter who bore the first son.† Mrs. Skene was the successful party, and her eldest son consequently succeeded to Careston, and on the death of his father became chief of the ancient family of Skene of that Ilk, being the twenty-first in succession from Robert Skene of 1318. He married a daughter of Forbes of Alford, and had five sons and two daughters, and as all the former died issueless, the succession devolved on their eldest sister, who had married Alexander, third Earl of Fife. She was mother of the present Earl and the late General Sir Alexander

* Douglas' Baronage.

† New Stat. Acct. Forfarshire.

Duff, whose eldest son is now proprietor of Careston, and heir-apparent to the Earldom of Fife.

The eldest son of Miss Forbes of Alford was bred a lawyer, but having a desire for military service, entered the army, and rose to the rank of Captain. He was long quartered in Ireland, and, in allusion to the English interpretation of his name, was familiarly known there as Captain *Knife*, and left the service on the death of his father. Taking part with the late Lord Panmure in the reforming movements of the period, he bore a conspicuous part in that momentous crisis, and was one of the party whom Napoleon arrested, soon after his elevation to the First Consulship, for openly drinking to his overthrow at a public banquet in Paris. The fines which were imposed on them, and the bribes they paid for their escape, were so heavy, that, though both had large incomes, and were long lived, they were embarrassed in consequence—to some extent at least—all their days.

Captain Skene died unmarried, and was succeeded by his youngest surviving brother, Alexander, who, with another brother, was deaf and dumb; and, with a view of enabling them to employ their time usefully, they were both apprenticed in early life to the watchmaking trade in Montrose to a Mr. Robb, —a person of provincial eminence in his line.

None of the family, however, were so popular in Angus-shire as the father of these youths—the eldest son of Miss Skene—of whose bacchanalian adventures and natural eccentricities many singular anecdotes are preserved. Contemporary with “the rebel laird” of Balnamoon, and resident within a short distance of each other, the stories of their well-known carousals are so mixed up with each other that they are almost inseparable. Though reputed to be a man of greater learning, and perhaps more extensive general knowledge, Skene is said to have been much more of the bacchanal than Carnegy. He had travelled much on the Continent, and being naturally of a musical turn, was believed by the vulgar, not only to have the power of making his favourite instrument, the bag-pipe, play in the castle while he strolled among the fields, but, like the Black Earl of Southesk, it was also understood that

“He learn’d the art that none may name
In Padua, beyond the sea.”

The story of "there being nae wile o' wigs," when the laird fell from his Rosinante into the Southesk at Blaikiemill ford, when his drunken servant placed a wet faggot on his head instead of his wig!—of his falling over his horse's ears into a burn, and crying to his man, "Is that a man fa'en i' the water, Harry? I thocht I heard a plash!"—of his being set past in his carriage, in the shed, and forgot for hours—and a host of kindred anecdotes, are printed in almost all jest books, and need not be repeated. They are, however, generally understood in the locality as having occurred between Skene and his man Harry Walker; but the first of these belongs properly to the contemporary laird of Balnamoon, who falls to be noticed in next Chapter.

Such were the proprietors of Careston from the earliest to the present time; and, as a family called Mitchell still occupy the farm of Nether Careston, which their progenitors have held from at least the time of Earl Henry of Crawford (the present tenant having held leases to his forefathers by Earl Henry, until they were lately called up by the Earl of Fife), some notice of them, as still preserved in the district, may not be inaptly given under this head. Having always been affluent, they were foremost in all sorts of agricultural improvement, and, among other advances, were the first in the north-eastern district of the county to erect thrashing mills, and adopt the use of fanners. As a matter of course, they had much to contend with in so doing, since the wonderful power of the latter machine in separating the grain from the chaff was attributed to supernatural agency, and called *the Devil's Wind*! It is also said, that the prejudice was so strong against their use, that Mitchell and his family were compelled to work them personally, and scarcely a housewife would allow a particle of the meal that was made from the corn which passed through them to enter her house. Still, the farmer persevered, and their advantage became so apparent, that even during his own lifetime, no meal could be found that had not undergone the process of being chaffed by the heretical wind.

Nor was it alone in their farming operations that this family were a-head of their neighbours; for, while other tenants had merely the glow of the fire, and splinters of wood to aid them

in their domestic duties in the evenings, and only the cold earthen floor under their feet, they had white tallow candles for enlivening the gloom, and the floor of *the ben*, or inner apartment of their house, laid with green turf, or strewn with rushes, taken from the banks of the Noran. These, it is said, were deemed so extravagant by the laird at the time, that Mitchell incurred his enmity to such a degree, that he threatened to turn him out of his holding, if he persevered in their adoption. Mitchell was invincible, however—the threat went for nothing, and he continued to augment the comfort of his house by steady steps; and, as already said, was followed in Nether Careston by successive descendants, one of whom occupies it to this day.



SECTION III.

" Forsaken stood the hall,
Worms ate the floors, the tap'stry fled the wall :
No fire the kitchen's cheerless grate display'd,
No cheerful light the long-clos'd sash convey'd,"

CHABRE.

" O, the name of gallant Grahame—
Alderne, Kilaythe, and Tibber, own'd its fame,
Tummell's rude pass can of its terrors tell."

SCOTT.

It has been already shewn, that a portion of the estate of Careston was known by the name of Fuirdstone, and could boast in old times of a tower or fortalice, so-called. This stronghold is mentioned by Monipennie in 1612, as the castle or tower of "Bannabreich." The ruins of a large house, called "the castle of Fuirdstone," were erased from a field west of the farm house of Balnabreich, about the beginning of this century, and, to this day, the plough turns up ruins of old buildings near the same place. The name had, doubtless, originated from the more than ordinary number of fords which are at this part of the river, for that adjoining the site of the old castle (which is the safest of the whole) is only one of several which lie within a short distance of each other. Perhaps, as the Gaelic *Bal-na-breith* implies "the town of judgment, or sentence," this may have been the place where Keraldus, or other early barons, dispensed feudal justice.

The necessary adjunct, the Law, or cairn, stood on an adjoining field, called the Law-shed, where many rude coffins and urns were found on reducing the cairn, which lay nearly due south of the site of the reputed monument of Carril.

It is not probable that Fuirdstone Tower (as popularly believed) was the original castle of Careston, for, as previously intimated, there was a residence here, and the district had its name from being the abode of Keraldus: while, as shewn by Monipennie, Careston was a contemporary house with Fuirdstone.

The present castle of Careston has been added to, and ornamented by various lairds. The latest erected, or back part, however, with its turrets and battlements, particularly when seen from the Ferne road, has the most castellated appearance of the whole fabric, and the best view of the front is obtained from the Hill of Angus, on the opposite side of the Esk. The front consists of a main part of three storeys, and two gable wings of four, which project about twenty feet from the centre or old part, and connected together by a lead-covered lobby of one storey, and metal railing, giving the whole a solid massive effect.—A fine cable moulding runs along the top of the wall, and round many of the window lintels, of the old portion of the house.

The centre, as before said, is the oldest portion of the castle, and, including the general appearance of the place, is thus described by Ochterlony: "A great and most delicat house, well built, brave lights, and of a most excellent contrivance, without debait the best gentleman's house in the shyre; extraordinare much planting, delicate yards and gardens with stone walls, ane excellent avenue with ane range of ash-trees on every syde, ane excellent arbour, for length and breadth, none in the countrey lyke it. The house built by Sir Harry Lindsay of Kinfaines, after[wards] earl of Crawford."

Though two centuries have nearly elapsed since Guynd gave this expressive account of the castle of Careston, had the house not been long tenantless and uncared for—the excellent avenue, which extended from the river at Gateside to the front of the castle, destroyed, and other large trees cut down—the arbour allowed to fall into disrepair, and much of the elaborate sculpture carried off to decorate a distant mansion—Careston, even at the present day, might have worthily borne the appellation of

being the best gentleman's place in the shire, for its internal carvings, though fast going to ruin, are still among the richest of their kind in the district.

It was tenanted within these twenty years, but since that time has been little cared for ; and the finest garden ornament, which consisted of a magnificently carved vase of fruits and flowers, went to pieces in the hands of the workmen who were employed to take it down. All trace of ancient refinement, for which this place was once so remarkable, is not completely gone, however:—The inhabitants of the Mains still receive water from the gaping mouth of a well-sculptured dolphin, and other tasteful carvings grace the well in the outer court of the castle, and the now waterless pond in the middle of the kitchen garden.

But it is by the internal decorations of Careston that the genius of the sculptor, and the taste of the erector, are to be fully estimated. These consist mostly in heraldic bearings, with which, and a good deal of grotesque ornament, the landing of the old staircase and five of the bed-rooms, are profusely decorated ; and, from the Carnegie arms holding a chief place in the staircase, this armorial group had probably been set up by Sir Alexander.* In the dining and drawing-rooms, allegorical representations predominate. The fire-place of the former is flanked by male and female satyrs, and the mantle-piece embellished with the Airlie arms and motto, guarded on each side by two naked figures holding urns, from each of which a serpent, emblematical of life, issue their curling forms, and unite together at the top.

The mantle-piece of the old drawing-room bears a fine sculpture of the Royal arms of Scotland, surrounded by military trophies, consisting of banners, shields, and lances, with two nude human figures riding on lamas. These are flanked on each side by a man and woman nearly life-size, also naked, holding cornucopiæ in their hands, beautifully festooned, and united in the middle by a Pan's head. Immediately under the Royal arms, a plain tablet bears the following incentive motto, in allusion, perhaps, to the valorous character and high position of the first

* Besides the armorial bearings of Carnegie, which are in the centre, this cluster also comprises that of the families of Wemyss of that Ilk; Blair of Balthyock; Hallyburton of Pitcur; Foulis of Colington; Earl of Gowrie; Earl of Haddington; and Earl of Airlie.

Earl of Crawford, and his marriage with the daughter of King Robert the Second:—

“ THIS · HONORIS · SINGE
AND · FIGVRIT · TROPHE · BÖR
SYLD · PVSE · ASPYRING · SPRE
ITIS · AND · MARTIAL · MYND”
TO · THRVT · YAIR · FORTVNE
FWRTH · & · IN · HIR · SCORNE
BELEIVE · IN · FAITHE
OVR · FAIT · GOD · HES · ASSINGD”

Three of the bed-rooms contain respectively the Gowrie, Haddington, and Balthyock arms, the first of which has robed and mailed figures on each side. Instead of armorial insignia, another bed-room contains a vigorous carving of a Highlander playing on the bag-pipes; while a fifth presents the figures of two peasants dressed in short tunics, each bearing a flail, with sheaves of corn, rakes, and forks beside them.

Such is a brief epitome of the history of the castle of Careston and its sculptures, to which could have been added, until the year 1843, the armorial bearings of the Carnegys, which scaled off and fell to pieces at that time,* and it need scarcely be said that both externally and internally, evidences of dilapidation meet the eye at all corners. It is true that the fine walk which leads from the castle to the church has still much of the beauty it had of old; but the grove, from the north gate by Waterston, which was guarded on both sides by spreading trees, whose branches united like the roof of a vaulted chamber, is now a coarse and uninviting thoroughfare; and though many of the large trees in the neighbourhood of the castle (which are said to have been planted while the lands were in possession of the Grandtully family) were pleasing accessories to the old baronial mansion, they, together with the large plantation which stretched along the turnpike, are nearly gone, and without something be done to rescue the mansion from destruction, it will soon become a total ruin.

The principal traditions of Careston are those concerning *Jock Barefoot*, already noticed, and a *White Lady*, who was wont

* These are said to have been thus impaled:—“Ermine, three bars, gules, each charged with a round buckle, or,” with the mottoes, “DIED GOD,” and “BE IT FAST.”

to perambulate the district when the woods were dense. But these need not be dwelt upon, since so much space has been taken up in the notice of similar incidents belonging to other quarters; and, of prehistoric traces and historical peculiarities, the district, unfortunately, is extremely meagre.* The first of these, so far as known to us, have already been noticed; and, perhaps, the greatest historical event connected with the district of Careston, was the lodgement of the Marquis of Montrose and his followers in front of the castle, on the 5th of April 1645, after the storming of the town of Dundee. As this was the only rest which the Royalists enjoyed after their long and celebrated retreat from General Baillie and the covenanting army, a brief retrospect of that dexterous achievement may not be inaptly classed under the present head.

As the cause of the wars of Montrose, and his many wonderful exploits, are familiar to all readers, we shall confine our notice to an epitome of this "retreat," which is characterised on all hands as the most dexterous specimen of generalship which the warlike annals of almost any country can produce.—After the total defeat of the Earl of Argyle at Inverlochy, on the 2nd of February 1645, Montrose had his forces strengthened by a vast number of the highland chiefs and their followers, whose inclination to support the royal cause was hitherto thwarted by the power of Argyle. Thus reinforced, he marched southward in triumph, and after firing several towns, villages, and estates, whose proprietors, or inhabitants, refused compliance with his demands (among which were those of Dunottar, Cowie, Ury, and Drumlithie), he pitched his camp at the village of Fettercairn, where he stopt a few days to refresh his army, during which his soldiers laid waste the neighbouring lands, and killed the father of the future Earl of Middleton and Clermont, while sitting in his chair in the castle of Caldhame.

While here, Montrose's soldiers met with their first repulse from the time they left Inverlochy,—a detachment of Hurry's troops, who were sent as scouts from the main camp of the Covenanters, which was then stationed at Brechin, falling upon

* Some writers say that (*ad Eriocam*) the pass of the Romans in A.D. 81, was at the junction of the Noran and Southesk, in the parish of Careston; but it is generally supposed to have been at Montrose, or some place thereabout.

them by surprise at the woods of Halkerton. They were soon repulsed, however, and leaving Fettercairn, Montrose crossed the North Esk and West Water, and passed along the braes of Menmuir and Ferne, with the intention of crossing the Tay at Dunkeld; but observing Baillie's army lingering on his flank, he halted two days on the north side of the Isla, while Baillie lay on the south. As Baillie declined to fight, both armies continued their southward march, and Montrose being informed that his antagonist had gone to intercept his progress at the main fords of the Forth, determined to retrace his steps.

Aware of the unprotected state of the North, he immediately fell back on the town of Dundee, which, from its wealth and population, afforded considerable inducements; and, about night-fall on the 3rd of April, having previously despatched his baggage and weakest soldiers to Brechin, he marched at the head of a hundred and sixty horse, and six hundred chosen musketeers, and reached Dundee early next forenoon.

He encamped on the Law, and despatched a trumpeter to offer terms to the Magistrates; but instead of returning with an answer, as anticipated, the messenger was cast into prison. This formed good grounds for Montrose wreaking his vengeance on the town, to which he bore considerable enmity (because of the inhabitants refusing to lodge his forces after the victory of Tippermuir), and his army were accordingly directed to storm the town at three different places, when a fearful scene of bloodshed, drunkenness, and debauchery ensued. The doors of the churches, chapels, and wine-cellars were torn from their hinges, and the town fired in two places—that part called the Bonnet Hill being nearly consumed; and, but for the alarm and cry of the enemy being at hand, the sack might have ended in the complete destruction of the town and shipping.

Instead of going to protect the fords of the Forth, as was rumoured, the Covenanters had only gone to Perth; and intelligence of Montrose's work being speedily conveyed to them, they were close at his heels before he well knew his danger,—indeed, the last of his army was only retreating from Dundee by the east, when the Covenanters were entering by the west.

There was no time to lose; and being a case of untoward emergency, Montrose asked advice of his staff. Some advised that

the horse should ride off, and leave the foot to their own shifts ; others, that they should stand firm, and meet Baillie face to face. Montrose rejected both propositions—the one as unfair, the other as imprudent ; and resolved on a march toward the hills by a circuitous route. Collecting the whole of his army of foot and horse, he marshalled the weakest and most inebriated of his men in the centre, and had the sides and rear guarded by the horse and strongest musketeers, and departed towards Arbroath, a distance of seventeen miles, which he reached about midnight, notwithstanding that they had had much skirmishing with a detachment of the Covenanters, who only gave up the pursuit when evening closed upon them.

Montrose's army had now marched about fifty miles, had been engaged in the dreadful work of storming Dundee, and had no sleep for two successive nights ! Nevertheless, with the fear of the ocean on one side, into which the superior force of the Covenanters could easily have driven them, and their principal detachment being at Brechin, where they could as easily have been cut up—instead of allowing his men to rest, or holding further to the north by the coast road, he cut directly through Angus-shire in a north-westerly line, and crossing the South Esk at Careston, landed there in the grey of the morning.

This was now the 5th of April. From about sunset on the 3rd, the army had been on constant march and duty of the most arduous and fatiguing character, without a moment's repose. Montrose, well acquainted with the roads of his native county, and knowing that, besides having the Grampians at his back, he had a relative by affinity, though opposite in politics, in Sir Alexander Carnegie, the proprietor of Careston, he landed his troops there, when they instantly squatted themselves on the extensive lawn in front of the castle.

Meanwhile, General Baillie, who was quartered at Forfar, little dreaming of Montrose's dexterous movements, and concluding that, between his own army and that of Hurry, he had his enemy simply for the cutting up, was so greatly mortified to find Montrose had marched round about him, that he set off with all speed in pursuit. On hearing of his approach, Montrose, ever mindful of his family motto, *N'oubliez*, had his men again on the move : this, however, was not so easily obtained as on former oc-

casions, for nature was so completely exhausted, that the sentinels had to prick many of the soldiers with their swords before they would awaken. The fastnesses of Glenesk (where they had been domiciled on previous occasions) were again their haven, and thither they retreated with all speed, and once more bade defiance to the superior force of their pursuers.

So ended "the celebrated retreat of the Marquis of Montrose," which was followed by a succession of marvellous victories down to his defeat at Philiphaugh, on the 13th of September following. The rest of his history is well known: flying to the Continent, he re-appeared, for the first time thereafter, in arms for Charles II., and was defeated at Inchcarron, by Colonel Strachan, in March 1650. Afraid of detection, he threw his military cloak, and the star and ribbon which he so much cherished as the approving gift of his late sovereign, to the winds,—exchanged his warlike habit with a peasant whom he met in the fields, and seeking shelter from his enemies, was betrayed by M'Leod of Assynt, who was one of his old followers! He was taken to Edinburgh in the mean habit in which he was found—hanged on a gibbet in the Grassmarket, with a copy of Bishop Wishart's "Memoirs" of his exploits hung around his neck—his body afterwards quartered, and sent to grace the gates of the principal towns in Scotland! So died Montrose, at the early age of thirty-eight—the most accomplished general, and devoted Royalist of his own, or perhaps of any age—a sacrifice to public indignity and private hatred.



CHAPTER VII.

Menmuir.

SECTION I.

"The family tomb, to whose devouring mouth
Descended sire and son, age after age,
In long unbroken hereditary line."

POLLOCK'S COURSE OF TIME.

THE church of Menmuir was in the diocese of Dunkeld, and dedicated to St. Aidan, bishop of Lindisfarne, whose feast is held on the 31st of August. A fountain near the church, now lost by drainage, long preserved his name in the metamorphosed form of *St. Ilen*, and was believed to perform miraculous cures on such as were afflicted with asthma and cutaneous diseases.

The church occupies a prominent position in the upland part of the parish, and in old times was surrounded by a marsh, hence, as *Moine-more* in Gaelic implies "a great moss," the name of the district is supposed to have originated. Nothing is known of the clergymen of the parish prior to about the middle of the sixteenth century, at which time "Robert Schaw, clerk, then in his eighteenth year, suffering the defect of birth as *soluta genitus*," had a dispensation granted by the Pope, as successor to James Hamilton in the canonry of Menmuir, with the condition that "he do not celebrate the service of the altar along with his father, nor succeed him in his benefices"—his father being also a canon of the parent church of Dunkeld.* According to the Register of Ministers, Mr. James Melville was minister of the parish soon after the Reformation, and, for his joint services here, and at Ferne and Kinnell, had a stipend of little more than eleven pounds sterling.† Mr. Andro Elder, the contemporary reader of Menmuir, had "the thyrd of the vicarage," extending to about fifteen shillings and fourpence sterling.

* (A.D. 1560)—Book of the Official of St. Andrews, Pref., p. xxix.

† *Ut sup.*, p. 180.

It is only when we approach the interesting era of the Covenant that much is known of the state of religion in Menmuir ; and from the distinct records which exist regarding it at that period, the Covenant appears to have been so highly esteemed, that on the 6th of May 1638, the " Confession of Faith and Covenant with our God [was] openlie read, *subscryvit and sworne unto be the haille congregatioune.*" It is in this stirring movement that the first record of the family of Carnegy occurs in connection with the history of the parish, Sir Alexander having been elected in the following September to represent the kirk session in the General Assembly at Glasgow, on the 21st November 1638.

From this period, and indeed throughout the whole course of the civil wars, the parish, from its proximity to the Grampians, suffered great annoyance ; and, like the people of Edzell at a later time, the inhabitants were oftener than once surprised on Sabbaths while at their devotions, by the presence of the soldiers. An idea of the sadly unsettled state of affairs may be had from the following notices in the Parochial Register, which, from the regularity with which it has been kept, is among the most interesting in the district.

Soon after the renewal of the Covenant, and on the 23rd of March 1644, it appears that there was " no conventioun becaus of y^e troubles ;" and on the 13th of the following February, ' no conventioun again until y^e 17 of August, becaus y^e enemie was still in y^e fields, so that the minister durst not be seen in y^e parish." But on the 17th of August matters bore even a more formidable aspect than before ; and just two days after Kilsyth had been won through the skilfulness of the Marquis of Montrose, it is recorded " that upon y^e intelligence of the approach of y^e enemie, the people fled out of y^e kirk in the midst of the sermon." On the 17th of November 1645, after the total defeat of the Royalists, and while they were skirmishing here and there before their final breaking up, the presence of the sixteenth *Earl of Crawford* and his army in the parish on a Sabbath, spread terror over the whole district, and is thus mentioned by the registrar, in the true dignity of a friend of the Parliament :—" No preaching, because ane partie of the enemies horse, coming throw the shyre, under *Ludowick Lindsay*, were in the parish."

After this visit of *Earl Lodovick*, however, matters assumed

a comparatively tranquil aspect :—the “ declaration against the traiterous band wer read ” in April 1646 ; and on 17th December 1648, the Covenant was again read in presence of the congregation, and “ subscribed by the minister, and all whilk could subscribe.” Two years later,* after Montrose’s unsuccessful attempt to restore Charles II., the thanksgiving was held “ for the victorie in the north,” or the decisive battle of Invercarron, in Ross-shire, where the champion of royalty was defeated by Colonel Strachan, and afterwards taken prisoner, and hanged at Edinburgh. A few months later,† the minister “ was appointed by the Presbytery to attend the Lord of Egill’s regiment for a month,”—he, alike with his noble relative of Balcarres, being a staunch supporter of the Covenant. Towards the close of the same year two fasts were kept, the one “ for the sinnes of the King’s familie,” and the other “ for taking the rebels ;”§ as was also a fast, ten years later, for “ the King’s happy restauratione.”

During the rebellious movements of the early part of the following century, when the Chevalier de St. George attempted to establish his right to the throne, the cherished faith which had been so dearly bought by the blood of our ancestors, was suspended in the parish for a short time, the minister being “ obliged to retere,” and the church and pulpit taken summary possession of by “ curats and rebellious intruders ;” but, on the happy conclusion of hostilities, the ejected pastor resumed his labours, and the schoolmaster and several farmers, who had aided and abetted the treasonable doings of the times, were rebuked for countenancing those “ who prayed for a popish Pretender, and for success to the rebels against our protestant sovereign King George.”§

The kirk, which was the scene of those unseemly, but interesting historical events, stood on the site of the present commodious edifice, and was pulled down only in 1832. It was in much the same style of building as the existing church at Careston, and had an aisle on the south side, and lofts in the east and west ends. The Collace burial-aisle, which stood on the east side of the church, was demolished when the present

* *Parish Reg.*, May 20, 1650.

† *Ibid.*, Dec. 22, 1650.

‡ *Ibid.*, Aug. 11, 1650.

§ *Ibid.*, Feb. 18, and April 18, 1716.

building was erected, and "a skull was found with a band, or fillet, of silver-lace around it, with stripes of the same covering from the fillet to the crown of the head. The silver is supposed to be the remains of a skull-cap, and appeared to have been plaited with hair. In the progress of decay, it had come to adhere closely to the bone."*

There is no monument, however, either belonging to the Collaces, the Lindsays of Balhall, the Symerses of Balzordie, or the Livingstons of Balrownie, all of whom were long proprietors in the parish; but the following quaint lines for the tombstone of John Symers, were written by a local Latin poet of the name of Leech, who will be noticed shortly:—

"Joannis Simmer (quod ætatem Anglice sonat) à Balyordie, tumulus.

*Regnat hyema, æstas fuerat; miracula non sunt,
Æstas si brumâ iam subeunte, perit."*†

The burial place of the Carnegys, who succeeded the Col-laces in Balnamoon, is attached to the north side of the church, and enclosed by a high wall, with a massive moulding round the top. On the left of the door, there is a beautiful sculpture of the armorial bearings of the first laird of the name, Sir Alexander, impaled with those of his lady, Dame Giles, eldest daughter of Alexander Blair of Balthyock, with the date 1639, and their respective initials, "S. A. C: D. G. B." As Sir Alexander survived long after this period, the date, perhaps, refers to the time of his lady's death, and the erection of the aisle.

Though no monument marks the graves of the Carnegys, (except a marble recently raised to the memory of three of the present laird's family), the graveyard contains an abundance of mortuary memorials, but few of these possess any general interest. Perhaps the most remarkable (taking into account the humble position in life from which the erector has risen to eminence), is that raised by "Colonel David Leighton, C.B., Adjutant-General at the Presidency of Bombay, in memory of his parents, Thomas Leighton and Ann Fairweather." Since the erection of this in 1825, the Colonel has risen to the rank of Lieutenant-General; and, for his meritorious services in India, where he was esteemed for the justice and impartiality of his

* Mr. Chalmers' Sculptured Monuments of Angus, p. 13.

† Epigrammata, p. 59.

conduct, and for his military attainments, was made K.C.B. in 1837. His relatives are traceable in the Parish Register so far back as 1698, when his direct progenitors, "David Leighton and Jean Mathers, were married." Sir David, however, was not a native of Menmuir, but of the parish of Brechin, and the clay-built cottage in which he was born in the year 1774, still remains on the farm of Cookstone, where his father carried on the trade of a wheelwright. In early youth, Sir David was a banker's clerk in Montrose, but having a *penchant* for military service, through the influence of his uncle (the late Mr. Leighton of Bearehill's father), he received a cadetship in the East India service, on 20th January 1797, and rose step by step until he attained his present important position.

The following, though remarkable neither for sublimity of thought nor orthographical accuracy, is worthy of transcription, as pointing out the burial place of a family surnamed Guthrie, one or other of the members of which have borne an active part in the management of the municipal affairs of the city of Brechin, as councillors and chief magistrates, for the past seventy years. As a family, they are still the most considerable traders of that city, and the present Provost, and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Guthrie of Edinburgh, famous as the advocate of ragged schools, are sons of the late chief magistrate. The principal farms of Menmuir were once tenanted wholly by Guthries, and the small estate of Burnside was owned by one of them;—still, the name (save in the female line) is now almost unknown in the parish. The tablet, from which these lines are copied, was erected in 1795, and is profusely decorated with mortuary emblems:—

" All passhengers as you go by,
And chance to view this stone,
To mind you of Mortality,
Behold the scull and bone :
Likewise the darte, that wounds the hart,
And syath that cuts the Threed
Of life, and coffin for to hold,
The bodie when its dead."

At Tigerton, the only hamlet in the parish, the Episcopalian had a meeting house down to a late date, in which the service was conducted by the minister of the Brechin chapel.

Though not so extensive as in old times, this village is still the site of the wright, blacksmith, shoemaker, and grocer; and is remarkable in history as the spot on which the Earl of Crawford and his merciless followers rested, when wreaking their vengeance over the lands of Collace of Balnamoon, through whose treachery Crawford lost the battle of Brechin; and, from the fact that the Earl bore the singular sobriquet of the "Tiger," the name of *Tigertown* was conferred upon this particular place.

—o—

SECTION II.

"Of the antient lordis and laydies gaye,
Quha livit in thir landis full manie a daye,
Thoch I doe wryte, little guid I can say."

OLD FORM.

DOWN to about the middle of the fourteenth century, the lands of Menmuir were in possession of the Crown, under the superintendence of thanes, and the rents drawn by the sheriffs; during which period the poverty of the inhabitants and the value of the rents are well authenticated. David de Betun, sheriff of Forfar in 1290, claims deduction in his accounts for that year for lxvi lb xiijs. iiijd., rent of the land of Menmemoryth, which could in no way be recovered *on account of the poverty of the husbandmen of the said land*, as the chamberlain and whole country witnesseth, and which rent was increased by fifty marks yearly, to the oppression of the said husbandmen, by Sir Hugh de Abirnethy, knight,* who had perhaps been thane or chamberlain of Menmuir. In 1359, the rents of assise of this parish are charged in the sheriff's account at 13s. 4d. for three years, or one-third of a mark yearly; and, in 1390, they had increased to half-a-mark.

Though no ruins have been found here in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, a Royal Residence once ornamented the now comparatively bleak landscape, and is supposed to have stood on the rising ground, a little south-west of the kirk. It was in full pomp during the time of Alexander III., for, in the Chamberlain Rolls of that period, Eda Montealto, sheriff of the county, takes credit for the payment of one mark, or thirteen

* Chamberlain Rolls, vol. i. p. 79.

shillings and fourpence sterling, to the King's gardener at Menmoreth.* The time of its destruction is unknown; but it may have been occupied down to the time of Bruce—it being in his reign that the lands were first apportioned to deserving subjects. It was, perhaps, the valuable sport which the Forest of Kilgery afforded that led royalty to have a seat here. This forest, of which, as of the King's residence, all remains are now lost, had likely covered the hills of Caterthun and Lundie, and the adjoining valley; but the Garry, or Geary burn, which rises in the little glen of Lundie, is the only trace of the name. Although this rivulet is the boundary betwixt the parishes of Menmuir and Dunlappie, it is probable that the forest had extended to the margin of the West Water.†

The name of Kilgerré occurs in the earliest known charters of Menmuir, the first of which is dated on the 1st of May 1319, and the circumstances under which this grant was made, however beneficial to the interests of the kingdom, were far from creditable to the holder. The facts were these:—Peter de Spalding, a burgess of the town of Berwick (whose wife was a Scots-woman), became so disgusted with the tyranny of the English, who had possessed the castle and town for the long period of twenty years, that he resolved, in hopes that the government of the Scots would be more lenient, to deliver Berwick by stratagem into the hands of Bruce. Accordingly, on the night of the 2nd of April 1318, it being Spalding's turn to take part in the watch rounds, he assisted the Scots in an escalade, when they succeeded in taking that important position.‡

Spalding's life was no longer safe on the Border, and in the hope of being more secure in the inland part of the kingdom, he exchanged certain tenements in the town of Berwick with Bruce, for which he had a royal charter of the lands of Ballourthy and Pitmachy (Balzordie and Pitmudie), with the office of Keeper of the Forest of Kilgery, and right to half the foggage. This, as before intimated, occurred the year after the taking of Berwick, and the name of Spalding does not recur in any future historical transaction. His end, however, was only

* Chamberlain Rolls, A.D. 1263.

† In Gael, *KU.gearr-ic* means "the kirk of the little short hill," so named, perhaps, from the chapel having stood under Lundie hill, which is the lowest and shortest of adjacent mountains.

‡ Tytler's History of Scotland, vol. i. p. 303.

such as was to be expected ; for although he evaded the sword of his own countrymen, he fell by that of the Scots. His betrayal of Berwick, and summary death, are thus narrated by the old chronicler :—

“ The castell then of Berwyke and the towne,
 Kyng Robert gatte, after stronge and greate defence,
 By treaty with [peace Spaldyng] and treason,
 The Wednesdye before Easter's reuerence,
 When that traitour, without long suspence,
 Betrayed the towne, and into Scotland went :
 By Scottes slain, as to a traytour appent.”*

The place of Spalding's murder is not stated ; it probably occurred in the vicinity of Menmuir, however, though no cairn in the parish bears the significant name of *Spalding*. But, in the adjoining parish of Ferne, places called Spalding's Stables, and Spalding's Loan, on the road betwixt Shandford and Balquharn, and on the Bruff Shank hill are well known, and popularly believed to have originated from the capture of the spoils of a Catheran so-named ; but, most probably, these have reference in some way to Spalding, if not to the place of his murder.

In 1445, Hugh Cumming, hermit of Kilgery, sold the office of Hermit of the hermitage of the chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary of the forest of Kilgerré,† with the hermitage of the same, with the green, and three acres of land annexed thereto, to John Smith, citizen of Brechin.‡ In 1461, John Smith sold the same to William Somyr of Balzordie, for one mark of yearly rent out of a tenement in Brechin,§ from which date Somyr's descendants were designed of Balzordie, and considered “ chief of the name,” down to about the middle of last century, when the male branch failed, and the estate was annexed, by purchase, to that of Balnamoon.

In 1470, half of Balzordie, held of Sir James Ogilvy of Findlater, who, on the 27th of November of that year granted precept of sasine for infetting George, son to William Somyr,

* Hardyng's Chronicle, by Ellis, p. 308.

† This old chaplainry stood in a field near the farm-house of Chapelton of Dunlappie. The stones of the chapel were taken to build the farm steading, and a fine spring, about a hundred and fifty yards south-east of the site of the chapel, still bears the name of Ladywell, in honour of the Virgin. It must be borne in mind, that this was quite a separate establishment from the adjoining kirk of Dunlappie, which stood on the margin of the West Water.

‡ *Miscell. Aldbarnesla*, MS.

§ *Ibid.*

as heir to his father deceased, in the above half. Besides the portion here noticed, the Somyrs' also acquired the *western half* of Balzordie, Chapelton, and the foggage of Kilgery; the lands of Brako and East Cruok, with the mill of the same; the Hermitage of Kilgery, and the cemetery belonging thereto; the Chymmess lands of Kirkton of Menmuir; the fourth parts of the lands of Balfour, Balconwell, Pitmudy, and the Brewlands of Menmuir.*

Thomas, grandson of the first-named William, who succeeded his brother John before the year 1488, died previous to 1494, as in that year his widow, Cristiane Guthrie, pursued Dempster of Careston "for the wrangws vptaking and withhalding fra hir of the teynd schaffis" of Balrownie, and for similar injuries and outrages committed over her property of Burnetoune of Balzordie.†

History and tradition preserves little regarding the domestic and public doings of the Somyrs'; but from casual notices of several of them in various ways, there is reason to believe that they had borne an important part in the leading transactions of the times. In the year 1478, George Somyr, along with Luvall of Ballumbie, and several other county gentlemen, was chosen by the sheriff-depute of Forfar, "to inquire and knaw vppone the landis and gudis pertaining to Walter Ogilvy of Owres."‡ In 1580, the laird of Balzordie, also George, was Chancellor of Assize when Lord Oliphant was tried for the slaughter of Stewart of Schuttingleis.§ It is also worthy of remark, that Robert, the son of the laird of the period, was beheaded at the cross of Edinburgh for the slaughter of the son of Grahame of Leuchland, which was committed "vpon the Hauch of Inch near the mekill mylne of Brechin, be streking him throw the body with ane rapper-suord," on the 29th of April 1616.|| The next mention of the family is, happily, in a more peaceful cause, since, in the event of Sir Alexander Carnegie's absence from the celebrated Glasgow Assembly of 1638, one of them was appointed to represent his native kirk session;¶ and, in 1662, his successor was

* *Miscell. Aldborensia*, MS. † *Acta Auditor.*, Dec. 16, 1494. ‡ *Ibid.*, June 4, 1478.

§ *Pitcairn's Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pt. ii. p. 90.

|| *Ibid.*, vol. iii. p. 437.

¶ [*Session Records*.] It was to this laird that Moncreiff of Tippermalloch (author of a curious book entitled, "The Poor Man's Physician"), prescribed the following cure for a head-

fined in the sum of six hundred pounds, by the Earl of Middleton, for his opposition to the introduction of Episcopacy.* From this period until 1715, when the Presbytery and Parish Records teem with the indiscreet amours of Magdalene Campbell, the widow of George Somyr, and the son of the Rev. Sylvester Lyon of Kirriemuir, nothing is recorded of the family. As previously mentioned, the male line failed before the middle of last century in the person of Colin, whose sister married David Doig, sometime a merchant and chief magistrate of Brechin. He sold the property to Carnegy of Balnamoon, and was father of Christian Doig, the wife of Sir James Carnegie of Pittarrow, who, on the extinction of the male line of the noble house of Southesk in 1729, became the representative and head of that ancient family.†

We have already seen that Menmuir was anciently superintended by thanes, who acted as stewards or factors for the King. This order of matters probably continued down to 1360, as, on the 8th of October of that year, a charter of the lands of Menmuir was granted at Kinnell castle by David II., to Andrew Dempster of Auchterless and Careston, and to Findlay, the son of William, and John de Cullas. It would appear from this that Dempster and the Collaces were portioners, and in this charter they confirm a grant, originally made in 1347, to the canons of the Priory of "Restynot," of four pounds, by way of the tenth penny, to which charter, among other notables, "David de Grahame dominus de Aldmonros" appears as a witness.‡ Such were the first Collaces of Balnamoon, or Menmuir, whose name was of territorial origin, and had perhaps been assumed from the estate or parish of Collace, in Perthshire.

ache:—"MENMUIR, 1 Feb., [16]35. *RT. HONOR.*—The receipt, or cure, prescribed by Tipper-malloe for the laird of Balsordie's pain in his head was this:—As much barlie meall as you will hold in your sticked hand, and oill of Roses, winegar of the Best, and a Woman's milk, a like quantity of every one of them; and of them all as much as will drake the barlie meall and make like a plaister; then spread it upon a piece of lether, and the haire being taken off, apply it to the part affected, and when it dries, lay to a fresh plaister. This was prescribed for the aich in the head of the Laird of Balsordie, and he never made use of it but it gave him ease, and pat the paine away. I have no more to adde but my most humble service to yourself, your lady, your sonne, and his lady. I shall ever remaine."—*Copied from a paper among the Findourie Titles, by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar.*

* Wodrow's Hist. of the Church of Scot., Dr. Burns' edit., vol. i. p. 276. † *U's sup.*, p. 199.

‡ [*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, No. 118]. In 1391, Walter Stuart, Earl of Athole and Caithness, who succeeded to the title and estates of Brechin on marrying Margaret Barclay, the heiress, had six shillings and eightpence annually from Menmuir, as superior of the lands.—*Rob. Index.*

The possessions of this family seem to have been mostly confined to Menmuir, and the traitor of the battle of Brechin and his son were the most conspicuous of their race; for, on the 17th of May 1488, Thomas de Collace, had a grant of half the foggage, with the vert and venison of the forest of Kilgery, for his faithful services at Blackness, when the life of James III. was threatened by the rebellious faction which held the sway over his misguided son.* Apart from these two historical incidents, little else is known of the family beyond the frequent skirmishes which they had with the inhabitants of Brechin. In 1450, when a perambulation of the boundaries of the lands of Balnamoon and the Common Muir, or those belonging to the Cathedral of that city was made, Collace, wroth at the portion assigned to him, pulled down the cross and up-lifted the march stones which the Bishop had placed by order of an assize of county gentlemen.† These skirmishes were of long duration, and for more than a century after this date, Robert Collace, and fifty-two of his tenants and servants, found caution to “underly the law” for convocating about a hundred persons “boddin in feir of war,” and coming “vnder sylence of nycht to the Burrow Rudis of the citie of Brechin,” where they “frechit and focht certane inhabitants thereof for thair slauchteris, and destroyit the turris (torrs or cairns) beand upon the said muir.”‡ By way of reprisal, perhaps, Harry Hepburn, and eighty-seven other citizens of Brechin, made an incursion on the lands of Balnamoon a few months after, and summarily attacked three persons of the surname of Downy, servants to Collace, whose houses they “keist down,” and “cuttit and destroyit thair plewis and harrowis, and schamefullie hocht and slew thair gudis and scheip to gret quantitie.”§ It was a daughter of the above Robert Collace who married James Rollo of Duncrub, and was maternal ancestor of the noble family of Rollo. A still more remote ancestor of the family, Sir David Rollo, had a proprietary interest in Ballichie and Menmuir in the time of James II.||

Latterly, the family fortunes of the Collaces became so greatly reduced, that in 1632, John, the last known male descendant

* *Dukedom of Montrose Case*, p. 58.

† *Hist. Brechin*, p. 19, 20.

‡ *I'iteairn's Crim. Trials*, vol. i. pt. i. p. 481.

§ *Ibid.*

|| *Doug. Peerage—Rollo*.

of the family of Balnamoon, sold the lands to Sir Alexander Carnegie, brother-german to the first Earls of Southesk and Northesk, and thus the family ceased to have connection with the parish. A stone built into the present mansion house of Balnamoon, bearing the initials and date, "I. C. 1584," is the only visible trace of them now in the district;—nay, their very surname, unlike that of most old barons, is almost unknown, and unassociated with any prominent action, barring the instances of John's treachery at Brechin, and Thomas' services at Blackness; and the only mention of the name in the Parish Register is the solitary and humiliating notice, that "Patrick Collace was admitted beddell!"

The family, however, were not altogether devoid of a literary taste. William Collace, who is presumed to have been of the Balnamoon branch, was Professor of Latin in St. Andrews, and preceptor of the illustrious James Melville; and one of the daughters was mother of John Leech, a writer of Latin poems, under the Latinised cognomen of Johannes Leochæus. He spent his early years under the roof of his maternal ancestors, and according to the title of one of his poems, was a native of Montrose, and educated at the Grammar school there, under David Lindsay, who was afterwards Bishop of Brechin. Leech is supposed to have graduated at Aberdeen in 1614, but nothing certain is known of his father. A burgess family in Montrose bore the same name, and he is believed to have been descended of them. He went abroad for three years, and on leaving Balnamoon in May 1617, wrote the lines of which the following are a translation:—

"COLLIS ! serene in years, of fair renown,
Whose manly virtues Mars and Themis crown ;
And thou, my home !—three hundred years thy date,
Firm hast thou stood, though oft the sport of fate.
Here first a grandsire's, mother's care I knew ;
In thy fair field from infancy I grew.
Farewell ! dear to the Poet's memory ye shall be,
And thy remembrance fondly dwell on me.
If the bright laurel wreath reward my lays,
To you be due the merit and the praise."*

* Leech's Poems, London, 1620, p. 61. This excellent translation is by a young Lady.

The first Carnegie of Balnamoon and Careston, as before noticed, was Sir Alexander,* brother-german to the first Earls of Southesk and Northesk, and to Sir Robert of Dunichen. He married Giles, daughter of Blair of Balthyock, who died in or before the year 1639, leaving two sons, David and Sir John, both of whom succeeded to the estates; and the latter dying issueless, was followed by his nephew James, who had Retours of the lands in November 1662. He married Jean Fotheringham of the house of Powrie, and was succeeded in 1700 by his son Alexander, who sold the Careston part of the lordship to Stewart of Grandtully, in 1707.† His wife was a daughter of Graham of Balgowan (ancestor of the brave Lord Lyndoch), and was mother of James Carnegie, who figured so conspicuously in the rebellion of 1745. James married Margaret Arbuthnott in 1734, by whom the fine estate of Findowrie was brought to the Balnamoon family, in virtue of which they assume the additional patronymic of "Arbuthnott."‡ This gentleman also added by purchase the lands of Balzordie§ and Balrownie to his paternal estate, and dying in 1791, was succeeded by his eldest son, who died unmarried in 1810, when his nephew, James Knox, son to the proprietor of Keithock and Markhouse, came to the property. By his wife, daughter of David Hunter of Blackness, the latter has surviving issue.

Of all these lairds, the most conspicuous was he who married the heiress of Findowrie, and who, with a company of vassals,

* In the following Presbyterian Licence to eat flesh on forbidden days (which is copied from the Arbuthnott papers), the name of this laird and his contemporary of Findowrie occurs:—"The Lords of Council gives full licence and libertie to Rot. Vicecownt of Arbuthnott, Sr Jon Carnegie of Craig Sir Alex. Carnegie of Balnamone William Rait of Halgrein and Robert Arbuthnot of Fyndowrie and such as shalbe in eache of yair Companies To eat and feed vpon flesche during this forbidden tyme of Lentron viz. frome the day of to the day of nxt thairefter. And als vpon Wednesdayes, frydayes, and Satterdayes, for the space of a yair after ye dait heirof And that withowt any cryme quarrell skaithe or danger to be sustinet be them or ony of thame in thair persons goods or geir Not, withstanding of quhatsumevir act of parliament statute or proclamation made in the contrare whairanent and all paynes therein contenit The saids Lords dispensis simpliciter Given at Ednr. the day of Marche 1642 yeaes. (Signed)—LOUDON CARNEIUS, ARGYLL, MORTON, EG. LINTOUN, SOUTHESK, Sr THOMAS HOP, J. CARMICHAELL, GIBSONE of Durie, ROBERT INNES of that ilk."

† See APPENDIX, No. VII., for a curious letter to this Laird from Sir David Carnegie of Pitarrow.

‡ The first Arbuthnott of Findowrie, was Robert, son of Arbuthnott of that ilk, who died in 1579. The laird of the period was fined £2,400 by the Earl of Middleton for his opposition to Episcopacy. They were also proprietors of Markhouse, Caldham, &c. See APPENDIX No. VIII.

§ The small farm of Piperton, at the extreme S.E. of the parish, belonged to the barony of Balzordie. According to tradition, the progenitors of a family surnamed Bean, who tenant Piperton to this day, have been there for the long period of upwards of 560 years!

bore a prominent part at the battles of Preston, Falkirk, and Culloden. He was governor of Forfarshire in behalf of the Prince, and the person in whose name the Hazard sloop of war was captured at Montrose by Captain James Erskine (brother of Lord Dun), and Ferrier, the notorious rebel leader of Angus. Carnegy, being hunted by the Royalists from his own house, found shelter for some time in the guise of a hireling among his own tenants, and ultimately took refuge among the mountains of Glenesk, where the place of his retreat is still known as "Bonnymune's Cave," and from being of kindred politics with most of the inhabitants, he long lurked there in safety.*

Although "the rebel laird" was remarkable for humour and conviviality, which were then fashionable, it is not to be concluded that he was either the sottish old bachelor described in the "Story-teller of last century,"† or the illiterate Goth, who cut the fine old books of his ancestors to fit the crazy wooden shelves.‡ It has been shewn, that he not only was married and left a family, but that he also augmented his patrimony by purchase, to a considerable extent. And although it cannot be said on any authentic grounds that he was the author of the popular old song of "Low down in the broom" (which is generally ascribed to him), the intelligence which was requisite to conduct the important and trustworthy office which he held during "the forty-five," ill agrees with the buffoon-like and illiterate character which the above writers would lead the public to infer were his leading peculiarities.

By way of authenticating the story of Mr. Carnegy *sawing* his books, and parting with the original edition of Shakspeare as a work of which he knew nothing—of the valuable library lying as lumber in a damp room at the house of Balnamoon, Mr. Gillies speaks as from personal intimacy with the laird, and knowledge of the library. These assertions, however, must appear rather problematical, when it is known that, apart from the presumption to the contrary above noticed, Mr. Gillies was barely two and-a-half years old at the time of Mr. Carnegy's death—the former being born on the 9th of November 1789, and the latter dying sometime previous to Whitsunday 1791. While, so far from the

* *Ut sup.*, p. 84.

† Chambers's Edin. Journal, New Series, No. 30.

‡ Gillies's *Memoirs of a Literary Veteran*, vol. i. p. 23.

fine old tomes, which he says were so shamefully mutilated by the laird, being at the house of Balnamoon, they came to the family by Miss Arbuthnott, and were never at Balnamoon at all, but were preserved in a substantial building at Findowrie, about two miles distant, and "were all delivered over in good order and un mutilated," shortly before 1810, to the late Alexander Gibson Hunter of Blackness, then a partner in the firm of Constable, the great publishers in Edinburgh.*



SECTION III.

"Alas for routhe! what thouche his mynde were goode,
His corage manly, yet ther he shed his bloode."

PERCY'S BALLADS.

"Although the age and use of this mysterious work
Have baffled Wisdom's self, provincial lore unravels all."

ANON.

LITTLE is known regarding the proprietary history of Balhall, until shortly before the year 1440. At, and for some time previous to that period, it was possessed by Sir John Glen of Inchmartin, in the barony of Longforgan, which the family of de Inchmartin held from an early date. The first of these who figured conspicuously was John, one of the ten barons selected to make the peace of Scotland with Edward I. in 1305; and, on the first appointment of sheriffs in that year, he was chosen for the county of Perth.† In the following year, his son Sir David, who had been one of the original followers of Bruce, was hanged, along with several other patriots, by order of Edward. His successor—perhaps a son—had a charter from Bruce of the lands of his sires; and about 1376, Sir Allan de Erskyne of Wemyss succeeded to the estates on marrying the heiress. Sir Allan died in 1401, leaving an only daughter, who married Sir John Glen,

* If Mr. Gillies and the "Story-teller," have confounded "the rebel laird" with his son and successor, who died a *bachelor* (and perhaps they have done so), he was remarkable beyond most men of his age for quiet, sober, and exemplary conduct; and the following satisfactory note from the present laird, will shew the care which he took of the books in question:—"I am a witness myself," writes Mr. Carnegie Arbuthnott, "that the books were never here [at Balnamoon] at all. I remember them at Findowrie, in a small building separate from the house, at the foot of the garden, where I have seen them repeatedly in the time of my uncle, who succeeded his father, and have assisted in dusting and keeping them in order down to the time of the late Alexander Gibson Hunter of Blackness, to whom they were all delivered in good order and *unmutilated*."

† Dalrymple's Annals, vol. i. p. 314.

and the estate of Inchmartin devolved on that knight. He also left co-heiresses, one of whom married Sir Walter de Ogilvy, who succeeded to the half of Inchmartin, and other properties belonging to Glen, of which "Balhalwell" (Balhall), formed a part.*

It is not improbable, since Menmuir was wholly at the royal disposal in Bruce's time, that Balhall had formed part of the grant which he made, or rather renewed, to the successor of his unfortunate friend Inchmartin. Be that as it may, subsequent to Ogilvy's succession, the name of Sir John Wemyss of Wemyss occurs in a proprietary relation with Balhall,† whether through pecuniary advances or how, does not appear. It has perhaps only reference to the half of it, however, for in 1527, Sir Alexander Ogilvy of Deskford, had a charter of *half* these lands, and another for the fourth part of Menmuir, which were erected into a free barony, called the barony of Ogilvy.‡ But in 1555, the Ogilvys ceased to have connection with Balhall, and other parts of Menmuir—their interest having been purchased in that year by David Lindsay of Edzell, the ninth Earl of Crawford.

The patronage of the church of Menmuir had long gone with the lands of Balhall; and John, second son of the said ninth Earl, was lay parson at one and the same time, of Menmuir, Lethnot, and Lochlee,§ and assumed his judicial title of Lord Menmuir from the first place. But, apart from certain ecclesiastical emoluments which he drew during life from this and neighbouring parts, he had no heritable or other claim on Menmuir, his youngest brother Robert, having succeeded to Balhall and the other Lindsay temporalities about 1572, when he also gave his mother a discharge of his "bairnes pairt of guid," in return for certain monies advanced to him by her.|| This Robert was one of several of his name, who had a remission for the slaughter of the laird of Lundie in 1583, barring which incident nothing particular is known of him. He died in 1598, leaving a son John, who survived for the short space of four years, when his sister Katherine, who married Robertson of Dalkbane, was served

* [*Crawford's Peerage*—WEMYSS.] His descendant, Sir Patrick of Inchmartin, married the eldest daughter of James, second Lord Ogilvy of Deskford: and, in virtue of the new patent, obtained by the first Earl of Findlater in 1641, he succeeded on the death of his father-in-law, to the estates and titles of Findlater and Deskford.

† Doug. Peerage.

‡ *Crawford's Peerage*.

§ *Crawford Case*, p. 218.

|| *Ibid*.

heir-portioner to her father and brother in 1603. Immediately on the back of this, or rather a few months before the date of the Retour, she and her husband resigned Balhall and the patronage of the kirk to Sir David of Edzell.* This is the last mention of the family which we have found in a proprietary relation to the district; and, sometime before 1623, Balhall was in other hands—perhaps, in those of a person named Carnegie—for a sculptured stone bearing that date, and the initials “H·C:A·G.” with the Carnegie and Gardyne arms impaled, is built into a wall at the farm offices of Balhall.

In 1646, a Hercules Cramond (perhaps a descendant of the old lairds of Aldbar and Melgund), is designed younger of Balhall;† and being the last name with which we have met betwixt and *circa* 1682, when the estate and advowson of the kirk were in the hands of Patrick Lyell (who was followed by his son William of Dysart and Bonington), it is probable that Lyell had succeeded Cramond. In Lyell’s time, the estate was greatly enlarged out of the Common Muir of Brechin, which portion is still held in feu from the magistrates of that city; but during Patrick’s time the family fell into pecuniary difficulties, and the property passed in 1721 to Mill of Balwyllo, who in the course of a year re-sold it to David Erskine of Dun.

Some notice has already been given of the Mills,‡—of the families of Cramond and Lyell we have gleaned little. Suffice it to say, that the Cramonds of Angus-shire, were of the same stock as those of Lothian, and were proprietors of Aldbar in the time of Edward I.—the then laird (Laurence de Cramond) having sworn fealty to that King in 1296.§ The Lyells of Balhall were related to Thomas Lyell of Dysart, near Montrose, who married Jean Maria Lindsay, of whom the venerable minister of Careston is a great-grandson.

The Erskines, however, have a more distinct lineage than their immediate predecessors in Balhall, the first proprietor of the name being the Hon. David Erskine, or Lord Dun, who became heir to his paternal estate, and chief of his family, on the death of his eldest brother. Their remote progenitor in Dun was

* Printed Retours.—*Inventory of Balhall Title Deeds*, communicated by Messrs. Speld & Will, writers, Brechin. † *Parish Records*. ‡ *Ut sup.* p. 192.

§ [Ragman Rolls, p. 162.] The Cramonds owned Aldbar down to about 1570.

John, second son of Sir Robert of that Ilk in Renfrewshire, whom Barbour and other writers extol for his fidelity to Robert II., and who, according to Wyntoun, was the main instrument in bringing the Stuarts to the throne:—

“ Robert Stewart was made king
Specially throw the helping
Of gude Schir Robert Ersking.”

Lord Dun, or the first Erskine of Balhall, was admitted advocate in 1696, and, after serving forty-three years as a judge, resigned office in 1753. He retired to his residence of Dun, and employed his leisure in writing a small volume of moral and political “Advices,” which he published in 1754, the year before his death. He married a daughter of Riddell of Haining, by whom he had a son and daughter, and resigned his estate of Balhall in fee to the former in the year 1732. This son succeeded to Dun and Balhall on his father’s death in 1755, and died in 1787, leaving two sons, John and David. The last-mentioned pre-deceased his father without issue, and the former left a son and two daughters; and this only son, William-John, being killed in Ireland in the attack on the rebels at Kilcullen Bridge, in 1798,* was succeeded by his sisters. The elder of these died unmarried in 1824, and the younger married the Earl of Cassillis, afterwards first Marquis of Ailsa. Her second son, the Hon. John Kennedy Erskine, succeeded to the estate of Dun, in right of his mother and aunt, and, dying in 1831, left by his wife, Lady Augusta Fitzclarence, daughter of William IV., the present proprietor, the Hon. William Kennedy Erskine.

Balhall continued in the Dun family until the time of the last-mentioned John, who sold the lands and patronage of the church of Menmuir to the present proprietor, Alexander Erskine, grand-nephew of Lord Dun, by his lordship’s youngest brother

* “The story of Mr. or Capt. Erskine’s death was always the theme of conversation among the men of a cavalry regiment on passing the scene of it, which they used frequently to do, on the line of march between Naas and Carlow. As I have heard it told, a body of rebels was strongly posted in a churchyard on rising ground, and surrounded by a strong stone-and-lime wall. General Francis Dundas ordered Captain Erskine to dislodge them, but the dragoons could not get their horses to leap the wall. After ineffectual attempts, and being galled by the enemy’s fire, Captain Erskine reported to the General that it was useless to attempt the duty with cavalry.—‘Are you afraid Sir?’ asked the General. ‘No! I am not afraid!’ replied the other, and turning his horse round, he rode over the wall, and was immediately killed. It was always added that the General, who was no favourite, never forgave himself for this sacrifice of a promising officer.”—*Kindly communicated by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Airdair.*

Alexander, a merchant in Montrose. He is heir male and chief of the Erskines of Dun.*

The Moss of Balhall, which is now partly under the plough, and partly under wood, was a great marsh in old times, stretching at least from Lochty on the east to Redford on the west, being a space of several miles. It was in this place, in the year 1382, that Sir James, then chief of the Lindsays of Crawford, and High Justiciary of Scotland, accidentally, or wilfully, met Sir John Lyon, the founder of the noble house of Strathmore, when they engaged in single combat; and, being one of the most accomplished horsemen and expert swordsmen of his time, Lindsay proved the victor and slew Lyon on the spot. The origin of their quarrel is now a mystery; but it is believed to have arisen from jealousy on the part of Lindsay (by whom Lyon was recommended to the notice of his Majesty), who, in his own late secretary, beheld the greatest favourite of the court of Robert II., and one, through whose influence he had been denied several favours. From Secretary to the King, Lyon became Great Chamberlain—was employed in various important negotiations at home and abroad, and, in addition to the original dowry of Glamis, which he had by his royal consort, his estate was augmented by the gift of various other possessions. Thus favoured by Royalty, perhaps Lyon treated his former benefactor somewhat cavalierly; for it is certain that Lindsay was impelled by the feeling of having sustained some real or imaginary insult, which he determined to resent, and which terminated, as above seen, in the slaughter of the laird of Glamis. Lyon's body was buried at Scone among the ancient Kings, and his son, then a boy of thirteen years of age, was educated under his Majesty's especial care. Lindsay "fled into voluntary exile;" still, it is curious to know, that he always held the office of High Justiciary, and on making a penitential pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket at Canterbury, was recalled and pardoned.†

It was also on the lands of Balhall, but on the northern confines of the property, that an unfortunate hind, of the name of Beattie, expiated the crime of perjury in true feudal manner. Whether the affair occurred during the time of the Ogilvys, the Lindsays, or whom, is not recorded; but the tradition has coun-

* *Family Tree*, kindly communicated by A. Erskine, Esq. of Balhall.

† *Lives*, vol. i., p. 72.

tenance from the fact of a barrow and patch of ground still existing, known by the names of *Beattie's Cairn*, and *the Mis-sworn Rig*. It is said that the circumstance arose from two lairds quarrelling about the marches of their lands in this quarter, and witnesses being brought to identify the boundary, the evidence of one of them went to prove that the laird of Balhall had no right to the portion to which he laid claim. Infuriated at this, and convinced in his own mind that the witness had perjured himself, the laird of Balhall drew a dagger from his belt, and despatched the man on the spot. On examining the body, the fact of the perjury was discovered, it being found that, to save his conscience, the cunning Ananias had his shoes filled with earth brought from the laird's land, in whose favour he was enlisted, and on whose property he swore he stood at the time he gave his oath!

This, however, was not the only cairn which the people of Menmuir were the means of raising to commemorate unprincipled acts of villany. From eighty to a hundred years ago Donald M'Arthur, the shoemaker at Tigerton, being about to get married, went to Brechin a few days before to make some purchases. While in town, he unfortunately quarrelled with several parties well known for their proud resentful spirit, and who in this case were more than ordinarily anxious to have their itch for secret revenge gratified in the most cowardly and fatal manner. Knowing the secluded path by which the bridegroom had to return home, they went and concealed themselves in the then dense and extensive wood of Findowrie, which bounded the road. It was dark by the time Donald reached the wood, and nothing, save the wind rustling among the trees, broke the silence of night. On coming to the fatal spot, he was furiously attacked and almost killed by those who lay in wait for him; but, before finishing their diabolical business, they heard the sound of footsteps, and fearing detection, simultaneously pounced on the passenger, whom they at once recognised as a provincial highwayman, who was in every way a fit accomplice in their dreadful enterprise. On receipt of a paltry sum of money, he completed the murder of poor Donald, and swore a secrecy which he held inviolate, until about to suffer the extreme penalty of the law for another crime. By that time, all

the murderers, save one (who was raving mad, and died a maniac), had gone to give an account of their transactions to the Omnipotent Judge of all. In commemoration of this blood-thirsty act, a cairn of stones was raised on the spot where the body of the bridegroom was found, and a solitary bush of *weebo*, or ragwort, long grew from the middle of it; and, as few travellers passed the road without contributing a stone to *Donald's Cairn*, as it was called, it ultimately assumed a great size; but was removed several years ago to make way for agricultural improvements. The bride died of grief soon after the murder of her lover, and the peasantry were often alarmed by mingled cries of distress from the weird of the unfortunate shoemaker, while the fairy form of his betrothed hovered nightly around the cairn, so long as any stones remained!

The cluster of so-called barrows near the church of Menmuir are commonly attributed to the Picts and Danes; and the sculptured stones bearing equestrian and other figures,* which were found in the foundation of the old church, are also ascribed to the genius of the latter people. These ideas may have originated in the vague notion which pervades the district, of the Danes having fought a battle here. It is certain that these barrows have an artificial *look*, but, perhaps this is the amount of the matter, and we are not aware that they have ever been opened, or that any warlike or domestic remains relating to prehistoric times have been found in their vicinity. It is true, that on disinterring a stone coffin a few years ago in the Cotton Muir, at a short distance from these barrows, a *flint* spear head was found in it as large as a man's hand. This relic was, perhaps, peculiar, not only from its great size, but also from its having a hole in the end, in which a piece of the wooden handle was firmly fixed. The workmen, anxious to discover the kind of stuff of which it was made, broke it into several pieces, and thus destroyed it. A thin bronze hatchet was also found near the same spot.

There is no record of any engagement having occurred at this particular place; but the facts now mentioned, together with the finding of numerous rude stone cists, containing urns, in the

* Chalmers' Sculptured Monuments of Angus, plate XVII., figs. 2 & 3.

adjoining mosses of Findowrie and neighbourhood, tend to corroborate the tradition. These places are in the vicinity of a large rude stone called the Killievair Stone, and, according to the provincial couplet—

“’Tween the Blawart Lap and Killievair Stanes,
There lie mony bluidy banes.”

The Blawart Lap lies about a mile due north of the Killievair Stone, on the farm of Longhaugh; and, as all historians agree that Angus, Earl of Moray, and five thousand followers were repulsed and routed by David I., in 1130, in the contiguous parish of Stracathro,* it is probable that the *mêlée* had extended as far west as “’tween the Blawart Lap and Killievair Stanes,” and the sepulchral traces which have been found in this quarter may belong to that engagement.

It is worthy of notice, that the most important of these were found only about two years ago, and in the vicinity of the Blawart Lap, of which the discoverer gives this account:—“While engaged improving a piece of waste land,” he writes, “including a grassy mound, called by the old people in the district, the Gallows, or Law of Balrownie (where, it is said, the lairds dispensed feudal justice), it was found, on excavating this mound, that it had been originally raised as a monument and place of sepulchre. A dike or circle of rough stones, apparently gathered from the adjacent muir, was arranged round the bottom. This circle was one hundred and twenty feet in circumference. Within, it was filled with earth, brought from the banks of Cruik Water (distant about one hundred yards), and raised about six feet above the surrounding surface. It contained a stone coffin, constructed with two long pavement-like

* [Dalrymple's Annals, vol. I., p. 76.] “Strathcatherach,” is the oldest spelling of Stracathro, and, according to the Gaelic, *Strath-cath-re* means “the field of the battle of kings.” Sepulchral remains are found in great quantity throughout the whole flat of the parish; and on opening the *Re* or *Rye* Hillock, near the church, a few years ago, a carefully-constructed stone coffin was found on the top about two feet below the surface. It contained human remains, and the figure of a fish, which the peasantry say was “made of gold, and about a finger length.” This interesting relic, which was carried off by the workmen and lost, had, perhaps, been part of the armorial ensigns of the person interred; and, as the Earl of Moray was killed here, this may have been the place of his burial.—King's Ford, the reputed passage of the Romans across the North Esk in A.D. 81, is in this neighbourhood. Tytler says that Kenneth III. also came by his death here; and tradition affirms that three Danish chiefs, or sea Kings, were buried at the north-east corner of the kirk. It was also here that Balliol did penance to Edward in 1296. The church anciently belonged to the Chapter and Cathedral of Brechin, and *St. Braud's Well* is in a field adjoining the church, to whom (though nothing is now known of him), the kirk had likely been dedicated.

stones on each side, and a half-round one at the head—the whole covered by a heavy slab of whinstone. From the inroads of vermin and insects, the coffin was completely filled with mould, mixed with small particles of bones, none of which could be distinguished from another, excepting a small portion of the skull. The head was placed exactly in the centre of the mound, and the body laid due south."

The verity of the couplet above quoted, is, therefore, so far strengthened, though the etymon of neither the Blawart Lap nor the Killievair Stone have any reference to a battle, but rather refer to the rites of Druidical worship. *Bloodh-art-lapah* in Gaelic means "the marsh where the priest cried or shouted;" and *Kil-leach-vair*, the "kirk or cell, and altar of thunder." *Calle-och* also means an old woman or priestess,—hence, it may be inferred, with some degree of plausibility, that the now solitary representative of the so-called Druidical altar at Killievair, is the remains of the temple of the priestess of thunder. Old people in the district remember when three or four of these stones stood on the same elevated spot, but no record exists of the circle ever having been complete, though there is reason to believe that it had once been so. The stone is about four feet above ground, upwards of eight feet in circumference, and tops a knoll north-west of the farm house of Barrelwell, in the parish of Brechin. A stone coffin with an urn inside, was found adjacent to it, about the beginning of this century.

The most remarkable antiquarian features of Menmuir, however, are the mountain forts of White and Brown Caterthun. These hills are of the same class as Duneval and Dunjardel, in Inverness and Nairnshires; but that of White Caterthun is accounted the most remarkable of any in the kingdom. Huddleston calls White Caterthun a Druidical erection; but other writers, on perhaps better grounds, suppose both ramparts to have a native origin, coeval with British posts, and raised for the protection and retreat of the wives and children of the ancient inhabitants, during the repeated invasions of their country; and, instead of assuming the name to signify "Camptown" or "City Fort," according to Pennant, take it from the likelier source of *Cader-dun*, a hill fort.*

* Chalmers' Caled., vol. i., p. 89; and Prof. Stuart's Essays, p. 87.

The rampart and intrenchments of Brown or Black Caterthun are nearly circular, and entirely composed of earth—hence its distinctive name. It occupies a lower site, and less space than its fellow, from which it lies about a mile east, commanding an extensive view of the eastern and southern portions of the valley of Strathmore; while White Caterthun, which is about three hundred feet high, commands the western parts of the Strath, and a great part of its southern and northern boundaries. The former has been formed by the levelling down of the top of the mountain, which, in a physical aspect, is altogether different from its fellow; for while stones abound on all parts of White Caterthun, comparatively few are to be found on the Brown—so that whether the stones had been carried from the latter to erect the former, or whether, by scooping out the trenches, White Caterthun had afforded materials for its own rearing—or whether, according to tradition, the stones were brought from the West Water, or from the still more distant hill of Wirran (to which provincial geologists say the stones of this fort are peculiar), are all matters of uncertainty.

Caterthun has been frequently engraved and described, particularly in Roy's *Military Antiquities*,* and is agreed on all hands to have been singularly well constructed for purposes of security and defence. The fort was not, however, as some descriptions of it would lead the stranger to believe, an erection which had been held together by mortar, or other cement, but was composed entirely of loose stones, which have fallen from their original position, and the breadth of the wall is presumed to measure about a hundred feet at the base, and between twenty and thirty feet at the top. It rises little more than five feet above the inner area, which is of an oval form, measuring about five hundred and thirty-four feet in length, by two hundred in breadth. The well is within eighty feet of the south-west corner, and although much filled up, is still represented by a pit of about eight feet in depth, and forty feet in diameter at the top. Beyond, and surrounding the whole citadel, there are a succession of strong ramparts and ditches, mainly composed of earth, and stretching far down the mountain. Although now much filled up, these trenches vary in depth from eighteen to twenty-four

* Plates 47, 48.

inches, and the whole structure, as has been frequently remarked, is one of the most extensive and elaborate ancient citadels in Great Britain.

Alike with the vitrified fort of Finhaven, the real history of Caterthun is veiled in mystery ; but, perhaps, since the place has never been properly investigated, something may yet be found among its ruins, to throw light on the manners of its possessors, or the purposes of its erection. It was visited by an anonymous writer about eighty years ago, who speaks of having found stones upon it with hieroglyphic characters, bits of broken statues, and old coins ; but none of these having been seen or heard of, save through the columns of a contemporary magazine,* the assertion is generally questioned. Mr. Black, author of the History of Brechin, with a laudable curiosity which cannot be too much commended, cut through a portion of the wall some years ago, but found only a few remains of charred wood, and burned human and animal bones.

But, as may be expected, though the learned of every age have failed to satisfy themselves anent the use or gathering together of these stones, local tradition at once solves the mystery, and says, that the place was merely the abode of *fairies*, and that a brawny *witch* carried the whole one morning from the channel of the West Water to the summit of the hill, and would have increased the quantity (there is no saying to what extent), but for the ominous circumstance of her apron string breaking, while carrying one of the largest !—This stone was allowed to lie where it fell, and is pointed out to this day on the north-east slope of the mountain ! This tradition, it may be remarked, however outré, is curious from its analogy to that concerning the Castles of Mulgrave and Pickering in Yorkshire, the extensive causeways of which are said to have been paved by genii named Wada and his wife Bell, the latter, like the amazonian builder of Caterthun, having carried the stones from a great distance in her apron !†

Perhaps the fabled occupancy of Caterthun by *fairies* had the effect of preserving credulity both in Menmuir and Lethnot. We have already seen its effects in the latter place ; and it is a notorious fact, that at no distant period demonology

* Ruddiman's Mag., Aug. 31, 1775.

† Ord's Hist. of the Antiquities of Cleveland, &c.

and witchcraft survived also in Menmuir with much of its original vigour. Nay, apart from tradition, it is recorded that in the memorable 1649, when upwards of four thousand native Scots were burnt for witchcraft, the then clergyman was prevented from preaching the Word of God to his parishioners upon the 2d and 23d of December, because he had to attend "the committee appoynted by the provincial assemblie for the tryal of witches and charmers." What the pastor of Menmuir and others began, their brethren of Tannadice and Cortachy appear to have finished, for both were absent from their parochial duties on certain Sundays, because of having to attend the burning of "ane witche!" Such cases, however, were far from rare; even Knox, one of the most enlightened men of his time, not only attended the execution of these martyrs to popular ignorance and superstition, but actually preached on one of those occasions; for Melville says, that the first execution he ever beheld was that of "a witche in St. Androis, against whilk Mr. Knox delt from pulpit, she being set up at a pillar before him!"* And, it is needless to say, that in much later times than those alluded to, "witchfinders" were imported from Scotland to the south at a very considerable expence.†

But the barbarous doings of old times are not so much to be wondered at, for many of the "living chronicles," even in the district under notice, remember of burning peats being dropt through the infant's first shift, to counteract the power of diabolical agency—of the husband's unmentionables being laid at the feet of the labouring wife, and the fairy club athwart the door sill, to prevent her being carried away by those tiny elves. Nor, even at this day, has the "deid licht" ceased to flutter, and throw its ominous gleams across the marshy patches of the East and West Lucks-o'-Pagan!

Threescore years have barely passed away since a humble couple, who resided at Tigerton, were blest with a son. At his birth, and for some time after, the boy throve as do other healthy children; but his constitution underwent a sudden change, and the thriving infant became a decrepit and rickety child. This marvellous reverse occupied the attention of the gossips, and various causes were alleged—amongst others, that the boy or his

* Diary, p. 58.

† See APPENDIX, No. IX.

mother was *bewitched*, or, that the rickety child was a *substitute* for the healthy one, whom the *fairies* had carried away by stealth to their invisible chambers about the hill of Caterthun ! The learned in such matters were anxious to find the truth of these ideas by experiment. If the boy was really of fairy origin, he would, *on being placed over a blaze of whins*, fly from thence to his native region—if an heir of mortality, he would withstand the fire, and receive, at worst, a slight burn, or *scaum* !

The Tigerton Hecate was well aware that it would revolt the feelings of the parents to have their child undergo such an ordeal, and the mother giving her ailing child in charge of a neighbour on leaving home for a day, Hecate prevailed on the nurse *pro tempore*, to allow her to test the boy's human or supernatural being. The experiment was of the highest possible interest. Harvey was not more anxious to discover the circulation of the blood than were those hags the *pro* or *con* of their irrational surmises. A favoured few were collected to witness the result, and the scene took place in *the ben* of a low thatched cottage. The door was carefully secured, the small window covered up, and the ceremony conducted by whisperings, so that no human eye beheld, nor ear heard, the unhallowed communings. A bundle of whins was lighted ; and, stript to the skin, the poor child was placed upon the tongs, and held over the flame by two of the learned conclave. He screamed and yelled, as older people would do in like circumstances ; but, *as he never attempted to fly out at the chimney*, he was declared by the devilish hags, in council assembled, to be *merely a human creature after all* !

CHAPTER VIII.

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Miscellaneous Lands of the Lindsays.

—o—

“ His lands, I ween, stretch'd far an' wide—
Frae hieland hill, to ocean's side.”

BALLAD.

Now that the history of the Parishes has been given, over which the great family of Lindsay of Glenesk once held almost supreme sway, their minor estates in other parts of Angus, and those which they owned on the confines of Perthshire, and in Mearns or Kincardineshire, will have our attention. The notices of these must be necessarily brief, in consequence of the volume having already reached beyond its proposed limits; and our observations will, therefore, be mainly confined to such facts and traditions as are preserved regarding *the Lindsays*, and to some of the less generally known historical incidents of the various districts. For the furtherance of our plan, this, the concluding Chapter, will be divided into three Sections—the *first* of these will embrace such of the Lindsay properties as lie in the Highland or North-Western parts of Angus, and on the East of Perthshire; the *second*, the Southern portions, or those on the south of the Valley of Strathmore in Angus; and the *third*, such of their lands as lay in the Mearns.

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SECTION I.

LINDSAY PROPERTIES IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PARTS OF ANGUS,
AND ON THE EAST OF PERTHSHIRE.

Brechin, Keithock, and Little Pert.

The Lindsay interest in the district of Brechin is of old date, has been of a varied and important nature, and, from the time of the first settlement of the family in Angus-shire, they shewed great favour for the Cathedral of that city. Sir Alexander of Glenesk, as before shewn, erected the kirk of Finhaven into a prebend of that church; and his son, the first Earl of Craw-

ford, endowed a chaplainry in its chapel of St. Ternan, to the revenues of which his descendant, the Duke of Montrose, also added considerably shortly before his death. It was during the time of the Duke, however, when the Lindsays attained the meridian of their power, that they had most interest in the locality, a circumstance which arose from the Duke having the life-rent of the Lordship of Brechin and Navar from the King, in acknowledgment of his services at the rising at Blackness.

But the earliest notice of them as land-owners in Brechin, occurs in 1427, when Richard Lindsay owned the house and land called the Forket Acre, the rent of which, with other properties, was mortified to the Cathedral by James I.* This place is described in the charter of resignation of 1511, as lying on the west side of the city, and is still known to some old people, as part of the property called the Bank of Brechin, near the south-west part of the Latch Road, on the north side. It was resigned at the above date, as "le Forket Aker," by Alexander Lindsay, "communi fabre in Brechin," to David Lyon of Kinnell.† This Alexander Lindsay was one of a long line of hereditary blacksmiths of the same name, who, for the making and mending of ploughs and sheep shears, had certain annual payments in meal and wool from various farms in the lordship, and the pasture of two cows and a horse at Haughmuir.‡ It is probable that they continued to enjoy the office of common blacksmith down to at least the year 1616, at which period the name occurs for the last time in the minute book of the Hammermen,§ in the council of which craft one or other of them acted from the earliest date, as they had done in the municipal courts of the burgh. Perhaps the Brechin Lindsays failed in females in 1672, for at that time Craighead of Finhaven was in the hands of the "co-heiresses of John Lindsay in Brechin."||

Sir John, the uncle of Earl Beardie, and one of his unfortunate kinsmen who fell at the battle of Brechin, was designed of Brechin and Pitairlie; but whether he had a residence in the city, or why so titled, is unknown to us. It is true that the Earls

* Hist. of Brechin, p. 14.

† Information from Lord Lindsay.

‡ The farms which were bound to pay these dues, were Balnabreiche, Kiudrokwood [Kintrockat], Petpullox, Pitendreich, Hauch de Brechin [Haughmuir], Buttergill [Burghill], Pentaskall [ut sup.* n., p. 227], Balbirnie, and the Mill thereof, Kincairg, and Lewchlands. — *Inquisitiones Speciales* (Forfarshire.)

§ Quoted ut sup., p. 38.

|| Printed Retours.

of Crawford are traditionally said to have had a residence there, and an old large three-story house on the north side of the street called the Nether Wynd (near the Cathedral), is pointed out as the spot. A well on the property has borne from time immemorial the name of *Beardie's Well*, and the rental of this property is *said* to have been given by him to the Cathedral, for saying mass for the soul of his mother. It is probable, however, if the family did not reside here, that it had been the site of their granary, or the place where their vassals or tenants deposited their meal, of which, and other payments in kind, ancient rentals were mostly composed.

It was in the early part of the sixteenth century, that David, third son of Sir David of Edzell, became proprietor of the lands of Keithock, which lie in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and were then under the superiority of the Bishop of Brechin, and partly under that of the Knights of St. John. From that period, David and his descendants were designed of Keithock until 1617, when the succession passed to a female, who disposed of this property, but retained that of Cairn in Tannadice down to 1655.*

Little is recorded either of the public or private transactions of the Lindsays of Keithock. The last laird, in his father's lifetime, was a partisan in the famous *melée*, which occurred between young Edzell and Wishart of Pittarrow in 1606; and, it is probable, from the name of Carnegie of Kinnaird being connected with the lands in a proprietary relation in 1593,† that the general embarrassment which the Lindsays were then labouring under had extended to Keithock, and, like their chief and others of the clan, they had been forced to mortgage their property.

On the sale of Keithock by the Lindsays, a younger son of the old family of Edgar of Wadderlie, became proprietor. David Edgar of Keithock, who bought the property from his cousin Thomas (the father of John of Poland), had a large family, among whom were John and James, who bore prominent parts during the rebellion of 1715. The former died a prisoner in Stirling Castle, and the latter, escaping to Italy, became the well known private secretary of the Chevalier, and died at Rome in September 1762, where "he was buried by a Protestant

* Printed Returns.

† Douglas' Peerage.

clergyman, according to the rites of the Church of England." He was a person of great worth, and, as appears not only by the letters of the Chevalier and his son Prince Charles, but by those of the fugitive nobles, was one in whom all had the most implicit confidence. His fidelity to the cause of his exiled master was unimpeachable, as the following anecdote by his great-grand-niece amply illustrates. "Some considerable time after the 'fifteen,' the British Government had reason to believe that another attempt was to be made for the exiled family. Sir Robert Walpole directed his spies to learn who was most in King James' confidence, and what were the character and circumstances of the individual. He was told that the King's private secretary was the younger son of a Scotch laird of small fortune; that he was of a generous, hospitable turn, fond of entertaining his countrymen when at Rome; and that he had but a small salary. This was just what Sir Robert wanted, and he wrote to Edgar, offering a handsome sum if he would betray the intentions of his master. Edgar put the letter into the fire, and returned no answer. Several other epistles, bearing advanced offers, met the same fate. Sir Robert, thinking he had not yet come up to the secretary's price, then wrote (and this time without making any conditions), that he had placed ten thousand pounds in the bank of Venice in the name of Mr. Edgar. The secretary then consulted his master, and, after a brief interval, returned for answer that he had received Sir Robert's letter. He thanked him for the ten thousand pounds, which he had lost no time in drawing from the bank, and had just laid at the feet of his royal master, who had the best title to gold that came, as this had done, from England."*

Secretary Edgar's eldest brother, Alexander, succeeded to the estate of Keithock. A younger brother, Henry, was the third and last Bishop of Fife, and for thirty-six years pastor of the Episcopal church in Arbroath, where he died (as intimated by his tombstone in the Abbey burial-ground), on the 21st of August 1765, in the *seventy-first* year of his age.†

* Quoted at p. 419, 6th edit. of Mr. R. Chambers' *Hist. of Rebellion*, 1745-6.

† Perhaps Bishop Edgar's age is misstated on the tombstone. The following is his baptismal entry in the Brechin records:—"April 2, 1698; David Edgar of Keythick, husband to Elizabeth Guthrie, had a son baptised, named *Hendrie*. Witnesses, Hendrie Maull of Kellie, Hendrie Graham of Menorgan, Hendrie Guthrie."

Alexander, the penultimate laird of Keithock, died about 1768, and was succeeded by his son John, who, like his uncles, was a staunch supporter of the Stuarts, and joined their cause at the age of nineteen. He fled to France on the final defeat of the rebels at Culloden, and served under Lord Ogilvy until the passing of the Act of Indemnity, in 1756, when he returned to Scotland. He married a daughter of Mr. Ogilvy, minister of Tannadice, and, down to his latest breath, when quaffing the goblet of wine or ale, he indulged in the rather equivocal toast of drinking—" *To the King o'er the water!*" Keithock being greatly mortgaged at the time of John's succession, it was sold in 1790 (two years after his death); and, although the family has passed from the district of Brechin, numerous descendants survive in America and various parts of Great Britain.*

Although Little Pert was one of the earliest acquired of the Lindsay properties in Angus, little is known concerning it beyond the fact noted in the "Lives,"† where it is stated to have been gifted by Sir Alexander to the Abbey of Cupar so early as 1308. It is said to have been held in later times by the Erskines of Dun, one of whom (the Superintendent, it is believed), erected the Upper North Water Bridge at his own expense.‡ An almost effaced sculpture of the Erskine arms is yet visible upon it; and, it is worthy of remark, that when the Covenanters were being conveyed to their prison at Dunottar, they were placed for the night in the middle of the bridge, which was guarded at both ends by the soldiers, to prevent their escaping.§

These estates, so far as the writer is aware, constitute the sum of the detached Lindsay properties in the eastern parts of Angus—those of Woodwray, Balgavies, Markhouse, and Barnyards, having been already noticed.|| The first of those parts which lie on the north-west of the shire are the lands of

Glenqueth and Memus.

The first designed Lindsay of these places was James, son to the first Lindsay of Little Coull, one of whose descendants, Robert,

* I am indebted for much of this information to Miss Watson (daughter of the late Bishop Watson of Dunkeld), through the courtesy of Wm. Baillie, Esq., Edinburgh—both great-grandchildren of Alexander Edgar of Keithock.

† Vol. i., p. 42.

‡ James Mill, author of the History of British India, &c., was born in a cottage near the Angus end of the North Water Bridge, on 6th of April, 1778. He died at London, on 23rd of June 1836, and was buried in Kensington Cemetery.

§ Wodrow.

|| *Ut sup.*, pp. 168-72.

was served heir to the eldest brother of his grandfather in Barnyards, on 19th September 1692. The Lindsays subsisted in Glenqueich until about the middle of last century, and failed in the Rev. David Lindsay, Episcopal minister of St. Andrews. They were all staunch Jacobites, and the last landed proprietors of the surname in Angus. Robert, who was served heir to his father in 1664, "expected to his dying day the happy hour to arrive when the Prince should ascend his father's throne; and gave himself great uneasiness about matters of court etiquette, fearing lest during the interval which had elapsed his manners might have become rusty, and he should not cut a good figure when presented to his Sovereign after the Restoration!" When he died, his son insisted on his being buried openly with the proscribed Episcopal service, and the timorous clergyman declining to officiate, the young man said—"Fear nothing, I am resolved it shall be so; I will stand over you with my drawn sword, and we will see who dare molest you!" This youth was the father of the venerable clergyman of St. Andrews, whose reverential appearance struck Dr. Johnson so forcibly when in Scotland, that he stopped and inquired of a person who he was—"Only a poor Episcopal clergyman," replied his (for the moment) oblivious cicerone. "Sir!" replied Johnson, "I honour him!"*

The predecessors of the Lindsays in Glenqueich and Memust were, perhaps, the Stuarts, Earls of Buchan, who acquired most of their Angus-shire lands, and the Sheriffship of that county, by marriage with the heiress of Ogilvy of Auchterhouse, about 1491—a circumstance which, doubtless, had given rise to the popular notion of this locality having been the scene of the tragedy commemorated in the ballad of "Sir James the Rose." Here, as at Auchterhouse, an old thorn tree was long pointed out as the spot where the "furious Grahame" and the "brave Rose" fell in deadly combat, and where the "fair Matilda," with

"The sword, yet warm from his left side,

With frantic hand she drew:—

'I come, Sir James the Rose,' she cried,

'I come to follow you!'"

* Lives, vol. ii., p. 282.

† These properties lie in the parish of Tannadice. It was anciently a thanedome, and John de Logy and his heirs had a gift of it and Glamis in 1363, for the reddendo of a red falcon

Shielhill,

in the immediate neighbourhood, was also Lindsay property from an early date, down to 1629, when it was sold by George, Earl of Crawford, to John Ramsay of Balnabreich, near Careston.* The castle stood on the top of a romantic rock which overhangs the Esk, on the north side of the river, and one of the proprietors is said to have married a daughter of Deuchar of that Ilk. Part of the castle forms the walls of the cottages which now occupy its place. These are about three feet thick, the door and window lintels are of old hewn ashler, and one of them is dated 1686. A chapel is also said to have been here in old times; and a fountain, at a little distance, is known by the name of St. Colm, to whom the chapel may have been inscribed.

In exact correspondence with the old rythmical saying, and a little south-west of Shielhill,

“ The Waters o’ Prosen, Esk, an’ Carity,
Meot at the birken bush o’ Inverquharity,”†

rolling their united waters to the ocean, through a rugged and romantic channel, fringed on all sides by clustering and umbrageous trees of various kinds and sizes. The bridge of Shielhill (dated 1769–1770), is famous as the place where the celebrated Scottish Lexicographer, the late Dr. Jamieson (whose wife was a daughter of Mr. Watson of Shielhill), laid the scene of his admirable ballad of the “Water Kelpie,” in which he thus takes so marked advantage of the story of Kelpie bringing the stones to build the bridge, and the bold sculpture of the head of a Gorgon, which forms the base of a sun-dial.

“ Yon bonny brig quhan folk wald big,
To gar my stream look braw;
A sair-toil’d wicht was I benicht;
I did mair than them aw.
An’ weel thai kent quhat help I lent,
For thai yon image fram’t,
Aboon the pond, whilk I defend;
An’ it thai kelpie nam’t.”

for the first, and a sparrow-hawk for the second, to be delivered yearly at the feast of Pentecost. —(*Reg. Mag. Sigill.*, lib. 1., p. 82, No. 76). Both thauedomes were afterwards given to Sir John Lyon in dowry with his wife, Princess Jane, daughter of Robert II.

* *Crawford Case*, p. 91. † Erroneously printed *Inverquharity* in Chambers’ “Popular Rhymes.”

Inverquharity,

which adjoins the lands of Shielhill, was anciently under the superiority of the Earls of Angus; and Margaret, Countess of Angus, aunt to Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk, gave her brother-in-law, Sir Alexander of Crawford, charters of Inverquharity, in 1329;* and about 1390, the first Earl of Crawford resigned the Newton in favour of a John Dolas.† Inverquharity proper, however, seems to have been alienated from the Lindsays to a John Allardis, sometime before 1405; for in that year Allardis resigned the lands in favour of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Carcary,‡ who was then Lord High Treasurer of the kingdom. On the 3rd of June, 1420, Sir Walter conveyed the lands to his brother Sir John, who, in consequence, became founder of the house of Inverquharity, which, from the respective seniority of Walter of Lentrathen (founder of the house of Airlie), and that of this Sir John being doubtful,§ both, with some degree of plausibility, can lay claim to the chieftainship of their clan.||

The third baron of Inverquharity was appointed Justiciary of the Abbey of Arbroath in the room of Earl Beardie, and being wounded at the battle of Arbroath, was taken prisoner to Finhaven, where he is said to have been smothered by his sister, the Countess of Crawford. His brother Thomas, it will be re-

* Robertson's Index.

† *Ibid.*‡ *Ibid.*

§ [Lives, vol. i., p. 133.] Sir Walter Ogilvy acquired Lentrathen by marriage with Isabella, daughter and heiress of Sir Allan Durward.—(*Doug. Peerage.*) He married, secondly, the heiress of Sir John Glen of Inchmartin, and thus came by that property.—(*Spald. Club Miscell.* vol. iv.) He died in 1440; but during his lifetime (1426) the patronage of the church of Lunderthin (Lentrathen) belonged to the Earls of Crawford.—(*Crawford Case*, p. 43.)

|| The real progenitor of the Ogilvys of Airlie and Inverquharity was Gilbert, younger son of Glibrede, Earl of Angus, who obtained charters from William the Lion of "tarrarum de Pourin, Ogilvin, et Kyneithin." He assumed his surname from the lands of Ogilvy, in the parish of Glamis, is witness to a charter of donation by his brother, Gilchrist, Earl of Angus, of the church of Monyfode (Moniffeth), to the Abbey of Arbroath, c. 1207.—(*Reg. de Aberbrothoc.*) The traditional origin of the Ogilvys is this:—Earl Gilchrist was married to a sister of William the Lion, by whom he had three sons. Their mother's fidelity had long been suspected, and on returning home from the chase one day, they found her in the presence of her paramour, and raising their daggers, despatched both on the spot. On learning the circumstance, the King declared vengeance against all the Gilchrists, and seized their lands. They fled to the forests for safety, and remained among them several years. One day his Majesty was out hunting, and getting detached from his party, was set upon by banditti. The proscribed Gilchrists who were lurking near by, ran to his rescue, and on learning their name he restored them to their old possessions, and added that of the Glen of Ogilvy, in Glamis, where he had been beset and rescued, but on the reservation, of their assuming any other name than that of *Gilchrist*, though, in truth, *Gilchrist* never was the surname of the Earls of Angus. In honour of the place where they saved their Monarch's life, they took the name of OGILVY, which has been so long and so worthily borne by their descendants.

membered, sided with the Lindsays on that occasion, and in consequence, had a gift from "Beardie" of Clova, Wateresk, and Cor-tachy. The eighth baron was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1626, of whom Sir John, the present baronet, is the eighth in succession.

But, although the title and family have descended in a long uninterrupted line, their ancient patrimony, with the exception of the family messuage and surrounding park, has passed to other hands; and the castle, which is yet one of the finest and most entire baronial buildings in the shire, stands

"now forhow't,
And left the howlat's prey."*

Balinscho, or Benschie.

The earliest proprietor of Balinscho, of whom we have any record, was Scrymzeour, a bailie of Dundee, and one of the Dudhope family, who owned both Balinscho and Glaswell during the sixteenth century. He was either father or brother to Henry Scrymzeour, the grammarian, and professor at Geneva, who died about 1572.†

It is probable that the Ogilvys succeeded Scrymzeour, for about 1595, by way of revenge, perhaps, for Inverquhar's slaughter of Lindsay of Blairiefeddan, Sir John Lindsay of Woodwray is said to have killed Ogilvy of Balinscho, and thus forcibly possessed himself of the lands.‡ So far as known, this

* The castle of Inverquhar is in much the same style of architecture and masonry as that of Auchenleck, and, perhaps, belongs to the latter part of the sixteenth, or beginning of the seventeenth century. The heavy door of grated iron, which is similar to that of Invermark, is in fine preservation; and, whatever difficulty may arise regarding the age of the building, the time of the erection of the gate is satisfactorily accounted for by the following royal "Licence." For the use of this curious document I am obliged to the courtesy of the present Baronet. It runs thus:—"REX—Licence be the King to Al. Ogilvy of Inercarty to fortifie his house & put ane Iron yet therein. JAMES be the grace of God Kinge of Scottis To all and sindry oure liegies & subdits to qwhais knowlage thir oure Lles (letters) sall cum gretinge Wilt yhe vs to haue gevin ande grauntit full fredome facultez and spile licence to oure loued familiare sqwier Alex of Ogilby of Innerquharady for to fortifie his house and to strenthit with ane Irne yhet Quhar-for we straitly bid and commaunds that naman take on hande to make him impediment stoppage na distroublace in the makinge Raising hynginge and vpsettinge of the saide yhet in his said house vndir all payne and charge at eftir may folow Gevin vndir oure signet at Strevilline the xxv day of September ande of oure Regne the sevint yhere" [September 25, 1573.]

† His sister, Margaret, married John Young, father of Sir Peter Young of Easter Seatoun, the joint tutor with Buchanan of James VI. Another sister, Isabella, married Richard Melville of Baldovie, and was mother of Master James Melville.—*Papers on the Young family, collected by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar.*

‡ *Lives*, vol. i., p. 311.

circumstance is only recorded in the family muniments of Crawford, there being no mention of it among the criminal trials, or in any private diary of the period,—a fact, however, which is not much to be wondered at, since so very few of these cases have come down to us.

Sir John Lindsay was a son of the tenth Earl of Crawford, and, before acquiring Balinscho, was designed synonymously of Woodway, in the parish of Aberlemno, and of Woodhead, near Balinscho. He had, perhaps, been twice married, as, according to the family genealogy,* his wife was Catherine, eldest daughter of Lord Menmuir; and according to a second authority, she was Margaret Keith, daughter of Lord Altrie,† to whom the sculpture of the Keith arms, and the initial “M” figured in the accompanying woodcut of Balinscho Castle, may refer.



Sir John had three sons, all of whom, with their chief, the Earl of Crawford, Lord Spynie, and other clansmen, left their native country in the hope of retrieving their decayed fortunes, and joined the cause of Gustavus Adolphus. The eldest son of Balinscho was dangerously wounded at the celebrated siege of Stralsund, ultimately rose to the rank of Colonel, and being with Tilly at the storming of Brandenburg, was mortally wounded, and died at the early age of twenty-eight. The second son, who was also a Colonel, fell in Bavaria soon after. The third, and youngest, was a youth of great bravery, and while an ensign, and mere boy, “lost a great part of his shoulder blade

* *Crawford Case*, p. 124.

† *Spalding Club Miscell.*, vol. iv., p. lxxvi.

by a cannon bullet," in covering the retreat of Gustavus from Wolgast in Pomerania, in 1628—was afterwards Captain in Gustavus's Life Regiment—ultimately rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel—was wounded and left for dead on the field of Lützen, in 1632, but recovering, died at Hamburg seven years afterwards, leaving his property to his friends and kinsmen, and "a legacy of four hundred rix-dollars for his funeral."*

Such were the brave brothers of Balinscho. Like the castles of their more powerful ancestors in other parts of the country, theirs, too, is a roofless ruin, the part in the sketch being the only portion now remaining. A circular tower, and other buildings, stood at the north-east corner down to a late date; and the ruins of the more modern house, which was built by Fletcher (the reputed successor of the Lindsays), stands near by. Many fine old trees surround the Lindsay castle; and the orchard, which occupies an acre and a-half on the south side, is still enclosed and unploughed, and contains, among many other fruit trees, one of the largest walnuts that is perhaps to be found in the kingdom. It is introduced in the prefixed sketch.

Fletcher, who married the youngest daughter of young Ogilvy of Airlie, who fell at Inverlochy during the civil wars, was perhaps the first of his name in Balinscho. Though not of old standing in Scotland, the Fletchers were among the most ancient and reputable of the English barons, those of Salton and Inverpeffer (of whom Balinscho was a younger brother),† being direct descendants of Sir Bernard Fletcher of the county of York, where the family subsisted for many ages. Sir George Fletcher and his brother James, were proprietors of Rostinoth about the middle of the seventeenth century, and were patrons of the church of Forfar, which, together with the teinds, were purchased from them by the magistrates of that burgh about the year 1669;‡ but whether of the Balinscho family, we are not aware. It was the penultimate Fletcher of Balinscho, who added the estate of Lindertis to his original patrimony, and rose to the rank of Major in the Indian Army. He was succeeded by his brother, who, in conjunction with the late Lord Panmure, enacted those youthful vagaries for which he is so well known in the district, and remembered as "the daft laird." The estates were

* *Lives*, vol. ii., pp. 52-56.

† *Douglas' Baronage*.

‡ *Old Stat. Acct.*, vol. vi. p. 513.

sold at his death to Wedderburn, of the family of Balindean, who parted with them in the course of two or three years, to Gilbert Laing-Meason, brother to Malcolm Laing, the Historian of Scotland. The Balinscho portion now belongs to the Earl of Strathmore, and the Lindertis part to Sir Thomas Monro, son of the late eminent governor of Madras.

It may be interesting to mention, that Balinscho was anciently an independent ecclesiastical district. The church, or chapel, was dedicated to St. Ninian, and stood on the west of the turnpike road, and is still marked by the family burial enclosure of Kinloch of Kilrie. This, too, had perhaps been the last resting-place of the Lindsays of Balinscho; but no monument, either of them, their predecessors, or successors, ornament the walls. The "Stannin' Stane o' Benshie," which stood for unknown ages, and was the theme of inquiry and speculation to local antiquarians, and the dread of the credulous, was demolished by gunpowder about a dozen years ago, and the spot is now covered by luxuriant crops of corn. This rude monument of antiquity is supposed to have been of about twenty tons weight; and at a considerable depth below it, a large clay urn, measuring about three feet in height, and of corresponding circumference, was found containing a quantity of human bones and ashes. Alike with its rude protector, however, the urn was broken to pieces, and, beyond the mere fact of its discovery, nothing authentic, either as to the style of its manufacture, or the precise nature or state of its contents, is preserved.

Clova.

The earliest proprietary notice of this beautiful and interesting glen (which the discoveries of the late ingenious Messrs. Don and Gardner have rendered famous for botanical investigation), occurs during the reign of Bruce, who gave charters of Clova and other lands to his nephew Donald, the twelfth Earl of Marr, in the year 1324.* Marr gave a John Johnston an annual out of these lands soon after, and they continued in the hands of the Marr family until the time of Countess Isabella (the wife of the Wolf of Badenoch), who resigned them in favour of

* Robertson's Index.

Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, the newly-created Earl of Crawford, in the year 1398.* In 1445, when Thomas Ogilvy, a younger brother of the laird of Inverquhar, joined the Lindsays against his own clan at the battle of Arbroath, Earl Beardie gave Clova over to him, reserving the superiority to his own family. It continued in this way till at least posterior to 1513-14, for of that date the seventh Earl of Crawford was infeft in the barony of Clova as heir to his nephew the previous Earl.†


As might be expected, the conduct of young Inverquhar at Arbroath was a signal for family hostility and revenge, and a series of desperate feuds was speedily commenced betwixt the houses of Clova and Inverquhar, and the former being backed by the Lindsays, ever proved successful; but, an arrangement being made in the time of the fourth baron of Inverquhar, these hostilities were brought to an end. This agreement was made in the true spirit of feudalism, by written indenture "at the water side of Prossyn," on the 26th of March 1524, in presence of various kinsmen and other witnesses, whereby the lairds of Inverquhar and Clova, under heavy pains and penalties, "remits the rancour of their hearts to others (each other), and shall live in concord and perfite charity, and sic-like efter the said sentence be given, as guid Christian men and tender friends should do, under the pain of eternal damnation of their souls, because that is the precepte law of God."‡ In strict fulfilment of the conditions of the "Indenture," the laird of Clova, now weaned over to the side of his kinsmen, conspired against the noble-hearted Edzell, on his advancement to the peerage, when the Earldom was cancelled in the person of the "Wicked Master"—joined the Ogilvys in besieging the Castle of Finhaven, harried Crawford's lands, and otherwise tried to prevent his succession—a proceeding which, as already seen, was only prohibited by the peremptory mandate of royalty.

The band had thus the desired effect, and the descendants of Thomas Ogilvy, the family traitor of 1445, continued lords of Clova and Cortachy till towards the close of the sixteenth century, when the former was given to Sir David, third son of the first Earl of Airy, who, like his older brother that fell at

* Robertson's Index.

† *Dukedom of Montrose Case*, p. 222.

‡ *Lives*, vol. i., p. 447, *et sub.*, where the Indenture is printed nearly in full.

Inverlochy, bore a prominent part in the great civil commotions of his time. He erected a mansion at the Millton of Clova, several of the hewn stones of which are built into the walls of adjoining cottages, and the remaining initials and date "D · O ·  · I · G.—1684," refer to him and his wife Jean Guthrie.

The boundary of the old garden is yet traceable, but the foundations of the house are completely erased. Not so with those of the previous Castle or Peel, which is still a prominent and imposing object, situated on the west side of Benread (a comparatively smooth or tame mountain, as the name implies), which rises to the north of the Millton. The Peel commands an extensive and delightful view of the Glen, and consists of a fragment about twenty feet in height, with walls fully four feet thick. It is traditionally attributed to the time of the Lindsays, and the occupant, says the same authority, having rendered himself obnoxious to his brother barons, a party marched against him under night and set his castle on fire. Amidst the confusion and smoke attendant on the burning, the luckless baron fled to the adjoining mountain, and took shelter, first under a large piece of rock still called "the Laird's Stane," and afterwards in the Hole of Weems, a well-known cave in the face of a hill near Braedownie. Others ascribe the destruction of the Peel to the soldiers of Cromwell and Montrose; but, perhaps, the real cause and time was in 1591, when, "vnder silence of night," five hundred "brokin men and sornaris houndit oute be the Erll of Ergyle and his freindis," entered Glen-Clova in September, "invadit the inhabitants, and murthourit," and slew "three or foure innocent men and women, and reft and took away ane grit pray of guidis."* It is also worthy of note, that when Charles II. duped his keepers at Perth in 1650, he rode to Clova, in the hope of meeting Lord Ogilvy, and some of his other friends; but, "finding very few to attend upon him, and very bad entertainment," he returned to his captivity on the following day.† This circumstance is known in history as "the Start," but whether the King passed the night in the mansion of David Ogilvy at Millton, or where, is now unknown.

Clova was long an independent parochial district, but united

* Pitcairn's Crim. Trials, vol. i. pp. 263-4.

† Autobiog. of R. Blair, by Row, p. 248.

to the parish of Cortachy in 1608, on condition that the minister should receive the teinds of both, and preach every two Sabbaths at Cortachy, and the third at Clova. From this period the parochial matters of both districts were managed conjointly; and the records, which begin in the year 1659, exhibit some curious glimpses of the local customs of the age,—such, for example, as when parties went to church on the first Sabbath after marriage, they were accompanied by the inspiring strains of the Highland bagpipe;* and, in 1662, there was no sermon at Cortachy because of the minister being in Clova, at “the executions of Margaret Adamson, who was burnt there for ane witch.”†

Clova was anciently dependent on the Abbey of Arbroath, and a pendicle of Glamis, by the clergymen of which parish, after the Reformation, it was occasionally served, but oftener by a reader, who had fifty marks yearly, for his services there and at Cortachy. The teinds belonged to the first Marquis of Hamilton, as commendator of the Abbey of Arbroath, and subsequently to the Earls of Panmure, down to their forfeiture in 1716—the laird of Clova being tacksman of the whole vicarage, which amounted to forty pounds Scots. The church, which is a very sorry fabric, has a pleasant site on a knoll by the river side, and the oldest of the few monuments is dated 1787. A chapel is said to have stood at a place called Lethnot, a little south of the kirk of Clova; but, beyond the mere tradition, that when the workmen were employed in building it, such part as was erected during the day was constantly thrown down under night by some diabolical agency, nothing whatever is known of it.

Glaslet, in this district, was Lindsay property, till about the beginning of the seventeenth century. The small estates of Rottall, Easter and Wester Lethnot, Gella, and Braeminzeon, were also in the same family, down to at least the year 1717, about which period, or soon thereafter, they became by purchase a part of the extensive lordship of Airlie. Although in the midst of the parish of Cortachy proper, these lands were always considered a part of Clova, and there is reason to believe that it was from these Lethnots, and not from that adjoining Edzell, that David Lindsay, who married Margaret, co-heiress of Lord

* “The minister and elders discharge that barbarous custome, of bringing a piper along to the kirk with married persons.”—*Par. Reg.*, Nov., 20, 1659.

† *Ibid.*, June 8, 1692.

Fenton of Bakie, was designed so early as 1458. As Lindsay says of these places are accounted for in the family history, down to at least 1666,* it is probable that the lairds of the eighteenth century were descended of these. Indeed so convinced were the descendants of the Lindsays of Rotall, Gella, and the Lethnots, of their being the nearest heirs to the Glenesk branch of the family, that steps were taken by some of them, on the death of Lady Mary Lindsay, to lay claim to the titles of the old Earls of Crawford.

The Castle of Bakie

was situate in the parish of Airlie,† within an hour's ride of Clova, and stood on a rising ground near the west end of a great moss. It was moated in old times, reached by a draw-bridge, and part of the ruins of the castle and causeway were visible towards the close of last century.‡ David Lindsay, the son of Margaret Fenton, and bailiff of the Earls of Crawford for several years, was designed "of Lethnot and Bakie," and charged as an accomplice with the Earl's son and heir apparent, in the sacrilegious outrage on "twa monkis" belonging to the Abbey of Cupar. He is the last designed Lindsay of Bakie, and it is likely that the estate had passed from the family in the time of his successor, for the third Lord Glamis had charters of it in 1489.§ After the execution of the unfortunate Countess of Strathmore for the alleged crime of witchcraft, the accounts of the Lord High Treasurer shew that a payment of forty pounds was made for the "reipar of the Glammys and Baky,"|| so that it is probable, since the King lived a good deal at Glamis during the proscription of the Lyons, that some of his court may have resided at Bakie.

The old chapel of Bakie stood in the kirk-shed near Lindertis; and in 1329, William de Fenton enriched it with a gift of the adjoining lands of Lunros.¶ This family, whose name is still preserved in the district by a hillock which bears the dis-

* Lives vol. i., p. 440.

† The kirk of Airlie was dedicated to St. Madan (vulg. *Meadon*). A fine spring in the neighbourhood, and a small hamlet, bears his name. A finely sculptured ambry, and a figure in mailed armour, is built into the kirk wall.

‡ Old Stat. Account, vol. xi.

§ Doug. Peerage—STRATHMORE.

|| Pitcairn's Crim. Trials, vol. i., p. 290.

¶ Robertson's Index.

tinctive cognomen of "Fenton-hill," subsisted in considerable pomp down to the middle of the fifteenth century, when they failed in co-heiresses, who were married respectively to David Lindsay, and to William, second son of David de Halket of Pitfirran.*

Dunkeng,

in the adjoining parish of Essie, is worthy of notice, mainly from the fact of its having been owned by Bishop David Lindsay, a son of Edzell. This celebrated prelate was first teacher of the Grammar School of Montrose, afterwards minister of Dundee, and on the death of Bishop Lamb of Brechin in 1619, was raised to that See. He was a man of great learning, an eloquent orator, and author of several important works, and was translated to the See of Edinburgh in 1634, where, in his attempt to read the Collects in the High Church, on the 23rd of July 1637, the well-known circumstance occurred of Jeanie Geddes throwing her stool at his head, and exclaiming—"Dei'l collickye!—will ye say mass at my lug?" He was excommunicated by the Glasgow Assembly of the following year, and withdrawing into England, died sometime betwixt that and the year 1640, as, of that date, his son John, was served heir to him in the estate of Dunkeny.† This son only survived till 1643, when his sisters succeeded as heirs-portioners, one of whom, Helen, married David Carnegie, minister of Farnell and Dean of Brechin, the founder of the present family of Craigo.‡ The Lindsays were followed in Dunkeny, sometime before 1661, by Peter Blair;§ and, in Ochterlony's day, it was possessed by John Lammie, ancestor of the present proprietor, one of whose name, also John "Lamby," was designed therefrom in 1542.||

Ruthven, Queich, and Altyh,

are conterminous districts; the first lies in Angus, and the two latter in Perthshire. They were among the earliest acquired of the northern estates of the Crawford family, Alexander de Lindsay, having, so early as 1329,¶ received a grant of the lands

* Doug. Baronage.

§ Acts of Parl.

† Lives, vol. i., p. 435.

|| Spald. Club Miscell., vol. iv.

‡ 17 sup., p. 163, et APPENDIX, No. V.

¶ Robertson's Index.

of Rothven, and Balwyndoloch from Thomas, Earl of Marr. Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk succeeded to the whole of them in 1369,* and they continued in the Crawford family until about 1510, when Alexander Crichton, of the noble house of Dumfries, became proprietor by purchase.

It is commonly said that the parish of Ruthven originally formed a portion of Alyth, and was erected into a separate cure by an Earl of Crawford for the accommodation of his vassals, several of whom were killed in a conflict with the Rollos of Ballach, while on their way to the church of Alyth.† So far, however, from this being the fact, there was a kirk at Ruthven at least a century and a half before the Lindsays had anything to do with the district; for so early as the year 1180, Robert de Lundres, natural son to William the Lion, gave the patronage and tithes of the church of Ruthven to the monastery of Arbroath.‡ All subsequent history of the church is lost.

The kirk of Alyth was inscribed to St. Moloc, whose feast is on the 26th of June, and its chapel was dedicated to St. Ninian.§ Among the clergy and others who swore fealty to Edward at Berwick, was William de Dundee, parson of the kirk of Alyth;|| and, although he is given in the Index to Ragman Rolls as “del counte de Abirden,” there is reason to believe that he was pastor of this church, there being no old kirk of that name in Aberdeenshire.

The Lindsays had two castles in this locality—one at Corb, on the north-west of the Forest of Alyth, and another at Queich, near the kirk of Ruthven. Ruins of both are still visible; and the site of the latter is, perhaps, the most romantic and picturesque of the many old Lindsay castles in the district. It stands on a rocky delta, formed by the river Isla and the Burn of Alyth, at the south-east corner of that parish. The rock is quite perpendicular, from forty to fifty feet high, and in old times, when surrounded by vast tracts of forests, and almost secluded from view, had been a meet scene for enacting those dark tragedies which tradition ascribes to it. The only part remaining is a portion of the east wall, which stands on the verge of the precipice. It is fully five feet thick, covered with ivy,

* Reg. Mag. Sigill.

† New Stat. Acct. of Forfarsh.

‡ Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 41.

§ Ragman Rolls, p. 164.

|| New Stat. Acct. of Perthsh.

is little more than thirty feet high, and about the same length—the rest of the building having been demolished and carried away for rearing the adjoining farm-house and offices, throughout the whole of which carved door and window lintels are profusely scattered. It is said that a subterraneous passage communicated with the castle of Queich, and the celebrated fort of Barryhill, which is about two miles north, and traditionally said to have been the prison of Guinevra, the faithless Queen of Prince Arthur.*

The first mention of the castle of Inverqueich occurs in Edward the First's time, it being there that he rested on the 2nd of July, when on his subjugating expedition in 1296. It is known in that prince's itinerary as "Entrekoyt chastel,"† and had then been entire, though it was a ruin when Robert II. granted it to his nephew James de Lindsay in 1394.‡ At the latter date it is called "the king's castle of Inu'cuyth," and the Forest of Alyth being a royal sporting field in old times, the castles of Inverqueich and Corb had probably been used as hunting seats by the Scottish kings. A person of the surname of Menzies (perhaps a descendant of the old family of Durrisdeer in Nithsdale), was Royal Forester in the first year of David the Second's reign;§ and, during the subsequent reign of Robert, John de Roos held the office of Justiciary of the Forests of Alyth and Cluny.||

It was about this time that the Forest, and indeed almost all the parish of Alyth, with the exception of the property of Bamff, (which was granted by Alexander II. in 1232, to Nessus de Ramsay his physician,¶ and ancestor of the present baronet), fell to the Lindsays, and from the rents of the Forest, and other parts adjoining, the dowager Countesses of Crawford received part of their terce, as verified by a process raised for the same by Countess Margaret against her own sons.** All history and tradition concerning the castle of Corb is lost, but those of Inverqueich are strangely interwoven with the history of the

* This ancient fortress is described in *Old Stat. Acct.*, vols. i., v. and vi.; and *Caledonia*, vol. i. pp. 90-91.

† *Ragman Rolls*, p. 178.

‡ *Reg. Mag. Sigill.*

§ *Robertson's Index.*

|| Edward stopped several days in Cluny Castle, and went from thence to Inverqueich.—*Ragman Rolls*, p. 184. Cluny was the birth-place of the Admirable Crichton. It is now the property of the Earl of Arlie, and is still a picturesque ruin.

¶ *Doug. Baronage.*

** *Acta Dom. Concil.*, Mar. 1, 1489.

Crawfords, to the Master, or heir apparent to the Earldom of which, it seems to have been given as an especial residence. It was so in the time of the Duke of Montrose, whose eldest son long possessed it. This was the desperate person who renewed the family feuds with the house of Glamis—took part against his father in his struggle for James III., and also became the leader of a band of lawless followers, who ravaged the lands, both of their friends and foes. In one of these rambles he came in contact with his youngest brother John, who was equally unprincipled as himself, and joining in single combat, the youngest stabbed the eldest fatally. He was removed to the castle of Inverqueich, and is said to have died there from his wounds; or, as more popularly believed, and indeed recorded at the period, "he was smothered in his bed at Inverqueich, and, as was thought, not without knowledge of his wife."*

This painful occurrence, not unparalleled in the family annals, took place in the autumn of 1489,† and the Countess was Janet Gordon, of the Huntly family, grand-daughter to James I. Soon after the death of her husband, she married Patrick Gray, son and heir apparent of the lord of that name, who had succeeded to the influential offices of Sheriff of Angus and Keeper of Broughty Castle, of which the Duke of Montrose was deprived by the parliament of James IV., for his services to the late King at Sauchieburn. Although Janet Gordon had no family by Lord Lindsay, she tried to assert her right to the castle of Inverqueich, and persisted in collecting the "fermes, proffitis, and dewities," of several lands in the vicinity, notwithstanding that the Duke had resigned them by charter to Adam Crichtoun of Kippendavie.‡ These circumstances gave rise to much discussion, and during the time of the dispute, the house of Inverqueich was ordered to be "frely deliverit in keping to Johne Erskin of Doyne," who held it for some time in behalf of the crown.§

But, according to tradition, the murder of Lord Lindsay was not altogether unrevenged. Though differing in the mode of telling, the story of the locality is ostensibly linked with the fate and mysterious conduct of Countess Janet, and the suffering of her penitent spirit; for, although she had other two husbands, and survived both, her soul sought the hoary mansion of Inver-

* Lives, vol. i., p. 171. † *Ibid.*, p. 169. ‡ Acta Aud., Dec. 6, 1419. § Acta Dom., Mar. 9, 1491.

queich, where her nightly lamentations and sorrowful wailings prevailed for ages. Here the ghostly form of her and her lord met the eyes of the credulous at all hours of the night, perched on the narrow cliff between the river and the castle, where, on bended knee, and clad in snowy weeds, the guilty supplicant craved forgiveness. Tired of her supplications at Inverqueich, Lord Lindsay is said to have doomed her latterly to live out her penance to the end of all time in the bosom of *Craig Liach*, or the Eagle's Rock, in the water of Ericht, in the delightful glen of Craighall, near Blairgowrie, where ruins still exist called Lady Lindsay's Castle. Here, though the unfortunate lady has a circumscribed abode, she is not allowed to sleep or idle away her time, being doomed to spin a long unbroken thread—sufficiently long to reach from the remotest parts of her rocky habitation up to the heavens, by which, when accomplished, she is to be permitted to mount to the spheres, and enjoy for ever the society of her injured lord!

Such are the traditions of this singular event. But Inverqueich Castle was inhabited at a much later period than the time to which this dark story is referable, and, strange enough, by a person of equal recklessness and daring—perhaps of much less heart—than the unfortunate son of Montrose. This was the son of the “Wicked Master,” the husband of Cardinal Beaton's daughter, and the persecutor of his greatest benefactor, Sir David of Edzell, the ninth Earl. The circumstances attendant on his and his father's unhappy career are noticed before, and need not be repeated,—suffice it to say, that in his time, caused by his extravagance and imprudence, the interesting properties of Ruthven and Alyth passed from the family of Lindsay, and since then, have frequently changed hands.

Meikle.

We have been unable to ascertain either the extent of the connection which the Lindsays had with the interesting district of Meikle, or the period of their entry. It is certain, however, that the first Earl of Crawford, in founding the choirs of Our Lady of Victory and St. George at Dundee, gave an annual of twelve marks out of the lands of Balmyle, then called Aber-

bothrie.* Meigle was also a part of the lordship of Crawford, which the scape-grace, Lord Lindsay, overran and uplifted the rents from in the time of his father, who was compelled to crave Parliament to protect him in the circumstances. The council granted the Duke's prayer, and laid the turbulent offender under heavy pains and penalties, ordaining that he should restore the stolen property, and remedy the evils which the lands of "Megill and Rothuen" had sustained through his interference.† It is also worthy of notice, that shortly before the death of the Duke, he mortified certain lands to the church of Meigle in honour of his benefactor James III.‡

The earliest recorded lords of Meigle were a family who assumed their surname from thence. They perhaps had the lands from William the Lion; for in his time Simon de Meigle gifted the advocation of the kirk, and an adjoining chapel, to the Prior and Canons of St. Andrews.§ This occurred between 1178–88, and the last notice of the surname with which we have met is that of Rogier de Miggel, who, along with other Perthshire barons, swore fealty to Edward in 1296.||

We know nothing of the name of the saints to whom the kirk and chapel were inscribed; but Kirkhill (now Belmont, where the late Lord Privy Seal Mackenzie erected a fine mansion) was a residence of the Bishops of Dunkeld, two of whom—Robert Nicolson, once parson of Meigle, and William Lindsay of the family of Dowhill—are buried at the kirk. When the Knights Templars were in pomp, they had considerable interest here, the lands on which the kirk and kirkyard are situated, and others in the neighbourhood, being still known as Temple lands; and some writers suppose that the so-called Guinevra monuments are those of certain Knights, who died here after returning from the Crusades.¶

* Thomson's History of Dundee, p. 286.

† Acta Auditorum, Feb. 19, 1487.

‡ Lives, vol. I., p. 155.

§ Lyon's History of St. Andrews, vol. II., p. 305.

|| Ragman Rolls, p. 128.

¶ [New Stat. Acct. of Alyth.]—These remarkable stones are figured and described in Chalmers' Sculptured Monuments of Angus, &c.

SECTION II.

MISCELLANEOUS LINDSAY PROPERTIES IN THE SOUTHERN
PARTS OF ANGUS-SHIRE.**Kinblethmont.**

THE founder of the Kinblethmont branch of the family of Lindsay (who are now the only remaining proprietors in Angus-shire, lineally descended of the great Earls of Crawford), was Alexander, youngest son of the tenth Earl, by his wife Margaret Beaton. He inherited much of the active habits of his ancestors, had more of a conciliatory disposition than most of them; and James VI. esteemed him so highly, that he chose him Vice-Chancellor; and, on his marriage with Princess Anne of Denmark, also selected him, along with Chancellor Maitland, and his relative Mr. David Lindsay, minister of Leith, to accompany him to Denmark on his matrimonial expedition.

At this important period, the royal exchequer was so inadequate to meet the necessary demands upon it, that the Vice-Chancellor advanced the large sum of a thousand gold crowns towards defraying the expenses of the King's journey; but while in Germany, became so seriously indisposed that he was unable to proceed farther. During the stay of the Court at Croneburg, however, the King, desirous to alleviate, as far as possible, Lindsay's disappointment in not being able to accompany him the whole way, sent him the following familiar notification of the honour he had in store for him:—

“ Sandie,

“ Quhill (till) youre goode happe furneis me sum bettir occasion to recompence youre honest and faithfull service, utterid be youre diligent and cairfull attendance upon me, speciallie at this tyme, lett this assure you, in the inviolabill worde of youre awin Prince and Maister, that quhen Godd randeris me in Skotlande, I sall irreuocablie, and with consent of Parliament, erect you the temporalitie of Murraie in a temporal lordshipp, with all

honouris thairto appartaining.—Lett this serue for cure to youre present disease.

“From the Castell of Croneburg, quhaire we are drinking and dryuing our (rattling away) in the auld maner.

“J. R.”*

As soon as the King set foot within his palace of Holyrood, he fulfilled his promise to Lindsay, gave him a grant of the temporalities of the See of Moray in lieu of his ten thousand crowns, and conferred the title of Lord Spynie on him and his heirs. But with the exception of the patronage of about fifty livings, in various parts of Elgin, Banff, Aberdeen, Nairn, and Inverness-shires, which the Lindsays long retained, the King repurchased the rental of these lands in 1605, and restored them to the church. The proprietary interest of the family in the district, is now limited to the advowson of the kirk of New Spynie, which was bought by the present proprietor of Kinblethmont from the late Duke of Gordon.

Lord Spynie married Jean Lyon, of the noble house of Glamis. She had been previously married to the Master of Morton, and to the Earl of Angus. Her alliance with Spynie is said to have been mainly effected through his Majesty's intervention, anent which, while in Denmark, and at a later date than the above, he reiterated his promise, and thus jocularly wrote to Lindsay, in allusion to the Lady's double widowhood, and considerable fortune:—"Sandie: We are going on here in the auld way, and very merry. I'll not forget you when I come home,—you shall be a Lord. But mind (remember) Jean Lyon, for her auld tout will make you a new horn."† Lindsay and "Jean Lyon" were accordingly married, and she bore him two sons, the youngest of whom died in childhood. And, unfortunately, only a few years thereafter Lord Spynie came suddenly by his death in the riot which occurred betwixt young Edzell and the Master of Crawford, on the High Street of Edinburgh, on the 5th of July 1607.‡

Towards the close of his life the friendship which subsisted betwixt the King and Spynie became much abated—the latter having joined in the Popish and other treasonable movements of the period. He was also engaged in a tulzie with the Ogilvy

* Lives, vol. i., p. 319.

† *Ibid.*, p. 328.

‡ *Ut sup.*, p. 39, et *sub.*

family, when "Reid John," and "Black John" Ogilvy were charged with "bering, wering, and schuting of hagbutis and pistolettis, and for hurting of Alexander, Lord Spynie."* To counterbalance this charge, and in the true spirit of the times, Spynie and a number of his kinsmen were charged only a few days thereafter, as "art and part of slauchteris" of two of the Ogilvy clan, when Spynie maintained that he and his followers were summarily attacked by them on the "hei-way beside the place of Leyis, as they vere rydand in sober and quyet maner furth of his duelling place of Kinbrakmonth [Kinblethmont], to the place of Gairdyn," when they "hurt and deidlie woundit the said nobill lord in the heid, and left him lyand for deid," and shot one of his servants.† Ogilvy and Spynie were both fined in large sums for those crimes, and warded to certain parts of the South, to abide his Majesty's pleasure.‡

Lord Spynie's son and successor was an active officer in the service of Gustavus Adolphus, and amassed such an amount of wealth, that he uplifted the mortgages which were over Finhaven and Careston, and even purchased the tombs of his ancestors in Dundee, from his cousin, the Earl of Crawford. He left two sons, in both of whom the male succession failed, when it devolved on their eldest sister, Margaret, who married William Fullarton of Fullarton, near Meikle. Their only son married a daughter of Carnegie of Boysack near Arbroath, and was grandfather of Colonel William Fullarton of Spynie, who married his own cousin, Miss Carnegie, heiress of Boysack. Their son, in right of his mother, and according to the deed of entail, assumed the name and title of Lindsay-Carnegie of Spynie and Boysack; and by his wife, who was descended of the old family of Strachan of Thornton, he had a considerable family. James, his eldest son and heir, died while distinguishing himself in his professional duty on the shores of North America in 1814; and their second son, William, the present proprietor, Convener of the Freeholders of Forfarshire, and heir of line and representative of the Lords of Spynie, served honourably as an officer of artillery in the West Indies and Portugal, and married a daughter of the Earl of Northesk. The other surviving members of this family are John Mackenzie, and Donald Lindsay, Esquires.

* (July 26, 1660)—*Fitzcarrin's Trials*, vol. ii., p. 134.

† *Ibid.*, p. 136.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 146.

The eldest son, James, already mentioned, was a brave and active officer—as remarkable for the amiableness of his disposition, as for his spirit and gallantry, and preferred the hazardous service of his country to the peaceable possession of a fine estate. He served as Lieutenant with his relative, Admiral Lord Northesk, at the memorable engagement of Trafalgar, and was in other severe actions with honour. He rose to the rank of Commander in the Navy, and when relieved of duty by being thus promoted, his thirst for active service induced him to act as volunteer. In this capacity he went with Admiral Griffith in his expedition to the Penobscot river; where he contracted a fatal marsh fever from long exposure in the boats.

In the public dispatch, forwarded by Admiral Griffith regarding the transaction at Penobscot, he says that he was “most particularly indebted to the active and zealous exertions of Lieutenant Carnegie, who was a volunteer on this occasion.” Nor, in those sent by Colonel John after the engagement at Hamden, is his brave and disinterested conduct less honourably mentioned. “Captain Carnegie of the Royal Navy,” he writes, “who most handsomely volunteered his services with this expedition, was in action with the troops at Hamden; and I feel most particularly indebted to him for his exertions, and the assistance he afforded me on this occasion.”

It is not to be inferred, however, that Lord Spynie was the first Lindsay proprietor of Kinblethmont, it being, in part at least, in the hands of the Earls of Crawford so early as the middle of the fifteenth century, and was owned by them down to the time of the eleventh Earl, who gave his brother, the first Lord Spynie, charters of the Mains on the 19th of June 158—. In 1634, the Earls of Kinnoul and Kinghorn, and the second Lord Spynie, as joint proprietors, conveyed the lands and Templelands of Kinblethmont to Sir John Carnegie of Ethie in life-rent, and his son David in fee, from whom, as seen above, the lands of Boysack have descended by marriage to the present proprietor of Kinblethmont.

The name of Kinblethmont is said to be derived from a popular belief that William the Lion had a hunting seat there, which was called “King’s blythe mount,”* but its true etymon is, per-

* Old Stat. Acct., vol. iii.

haps, in the Gaelic *Kin-bladh-mount*, or "the head of the smooth hill." This, at least, is quite descriptive of the site of the place, and in conformity with the oldest orthography — *Kynblath-mund*. Richard de Melville, of the Glenbervie family, is the most ancient proprietor with whom we have met. He gave the monks of Arbroath certain parts of the lands, and the patronage of the chapel, which was dedicated to St. Lawrence the martyr,* and stood near the Temple lands of Kinblethmont. It is known as Qhytefield Chapel, and now used as the family burial-place; but "no storied urn or animated bust," perpetuates the memory of any of those buried within.

About a century subsequent to Melville's grant, Welandus de Seynclau is designed "Dominus de Kynblatmund,"† but to what family he belonged has not been ascertained. He was probably followed by a branch of the old family of Montealto of Ferne, who had considerable property in the southern, as well as in the northern, parts of the shire; and as Richard de Montealto occurs in connection, both with this lordship and Ferne in 1379,‡ it is probable they are one and the same person; and that Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk had succeeded him in both estates. Guthries were designed of Kinblethmont from, at least, the year 1470,§ till 1594.|| They were of the family of Colliston, and sold Kinblethmont to Master Peter Young (afterwards Sir Peter), about 1582, who held the lands for sometime thereafter—perhaps under the superiority of the Crown.¶

* (A.D. 1189)—Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 99.

† Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 274.

‡ Reg. Mag. Sig.

§ Acta Auditorum, p. 68.

|| Thomas Guthrie de Kinblethmont witnesses the excambion of Cookston for Ardvie, betwixt Sir R. Carnegie of Kinnaird, and Geo. Speid, ancestor of the present laird of Ardvie,—*Ardvie Charters*.

¶ The lands of Bandoch, west of the kirk of Inverkeillor, was also Lindsay property so late as 1686 (*Doug. Peerage*), and had probably been obtained from Lord Innermeath, a previous proprietor.—(*Reg. Mag. Sig.*) The church of Inverkeillor, in the diocese of St. Andrews, was gifted to the Abbey of Arbroath by de Berkeley of Redcastle, and dedicated to St. Macconnoc. (*Reg. de Aberbrothoc*, p. 38.) The old church of Athyn, and its chapel of St. Murdoch, which stands near the Redhead, east of Ethie castle, were given to the same Abbey by William the Lion (*Reg. de Aberbrothoc*), and are now united to Inverkeillor. The church of Inverkeillor is an old antiquated fabric, and the sides of the windows are covered with long scriptural quotations in Greek and Hebrew—now nearly obliterated by whitewashing! The burial aisle of the Earls of Northesk is attached to the west end of the kirk; and Gardyne of Lawton and Middleton (*ut sup.* § n., p. 44), and Rait of Anniston, also bury here.

Guthrie, and Carbuddo.

The early history of the lands of Guthrie is obscure: they were probably Crown property when William the Lion granted the church and its patronage to the Abbey of Arbroath.* The next notice of them is in the Chamberlain Rolls in 1359, when the Sheriff of Forfar returns that there is nothing to be charged against him out of the ward of Baldowry, nor out of the propart of the lands of Sir Henry de Ramesay, within the barony of Guthery, because they (the wards of these lands) were sold by Thomas Earl of Marr, the Lord Chamberlain, as appears by his letters patent charging himself with fifty-three shillings and four pence sterling for the propart of Guthery.† From this it appears, that Sir Henry Ramsay was then a portioner of the barony of Guthry: how he came to be so, there is nothing to show. In 1398, the Earl of Crawford had a confirmation charter of the barony of Guthrie; in 1450, Walter Carnegie of Guthrie is one of an inquest to inquire into the marches of the Bishop's Common of Brechin. But in 1440, a George Guthry, who designates himself of that Ilk, grants to Sir John Ogilvy of Luntrathen his half of the lands of Eroly (Airlie) which he holds of Sir John as superior of these.‡ Be this as it may, David Guthry, who was an esquire to the Earl of Crawford, and who seems to have combined in his person a sort of mixture of soldier, churchman, and lawyer, and who was knighted in England by the English King, purchased the barony of Guthry about 1465.§ He also purchased the patronage and church of Guthrie from the Abbey of Arbroath, and erected it into a collegiate church with a Provost and three canons, to which number his son added five. The church of Guthrie was an ancient prebend of the Cathedral of Brechin, and its history is much complicated by these transactions with the Abbey and the collegiate church. The surname of Guthrie does not appear in the first volume of the Register of Arbroath, although the Abbey was so closely connected with the lands.||

* Reg. de Aberbrothoc. † Chamb. Rolls, vol. 1., p. 344. ‡ Airlie Charters.

§ Mr. Harry Maule of Kelly writes—"Sir David Guthrie of that Ilk [was] designed first, Captain of the King's Guard, afterwards Comptroller, then Register, and afterwards Lord Treasurer, and last of all Justice-General, as is to be seen in the charters of King James the third in the Public Records."—*Information by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Alabar.* ¶ *Ibid.*

Sir David was the son of Alexander Guthrie, laird of Kincaldrum,* and is said to have been brother to Abbot Richard of Arbroath; and, as eldest son, succeeded to Kincaldrum, which he owned in 1463,† from which estate Guthries were designed down to 1674-76.‡ This knight is the first laird of Guthry who appears as a witness to Crown charters, and so far as known, was the most illustrious of his family, having, at various periods, filled the important offices of Lord Register, and Lord High Treasurer, and died Lord Chief-Justice of Scotland.

He was succeeded by his son, Alexander, above noticed, who, along with his eldest son and three brothers-in-law, fell at Flodden: his grandson, also Alexander, was killed in a feud with the Gardens of Legiston, in October 1587, of which murder Garden had a remission under the Great Seal.§ Garden had, perhaps, been thus leniently dealt with from the fact that William Guthrie of Ravensbie, son of this unfortunate laird, murdered both Garden of that Ilk and Garden of Tulloes on the high way betwixt Brechin and Dundee, in 1578,|| and the assault on old Guthrie may have been committed by Garden out of revenge for the death of his relatives. Be that as it may, James, the son of the laird of Guthrie who fell by Legiston, shared the fate of his father in June 1599,¶ being murdered by the hands of several of his own near relations. The succeeding laird of Guthrie bore the same name as his father, and was the parent of James Guthrie, the famous martyr, who was executed at the Grassmarket of Edinburgh in 1651.

Owing to the difficulties into which the family were thrown about this memorable period, James' brother—perhaps Patrick (at least there was a Patrick Guthrie, who designed himself in 1655, as "*sometime of that Ilk*"),**—sold the estates to Mr. John Guthrie, Bishop of Moray, on which the original stock and line of "Guthrie of that Ilk," ceased to have connection with the lands which bore their name, the Bishop being remotely, if at all, related to the family of that Ilk. We have been unable to ascertain the exact date of the Bishop's purchase; but it must have been

* Sir David's father had been the first or second Guthrie of Kincaldrum, as it belonged to Sir John de Wemyss so late as 1393.—*Robertson's Index*, † Crawford's Officers of State.

‡ *Genealogical MS. belonging to Lord Panmure*. [The Bowers possessed Kincaldrum in 1678.—*Edwards' Descrip. of Angus*.] § Pitcairn's Trials, vol. i, pt. 2, p. 372; vol. ii, p. 108.

|| *Ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 528; iii., pp. 77, 80.

¶ *Ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 101.

** *Servicos of Heirs in Chancery Office*, vol. vi., fol. 90.

sometime before 1640, as (on being deprived of his living, and forced out of his official residence of Spynie Castle), he retired in that year "to his own estate of Guthrie, in the county of Angus," where "he died during the course of the grand rebellion."* Bishop Guthrie's daughter married her cousin, Guthrie of Gaigie, and thus became maternal ancestor of the present laird of Guthrie and Gaigie, who succeeded his father in 1845. But, although the direct descendants of Sir David have now passed from the position of landowners, the present family claims collateral descent through the Gaigie line, and the surname is still plentiful throughout Angus-shire.† At no distant date the following provincial couplet was applicable to four Angus-shire freeholders of the surname of Guthrie, who possessed the various properties here named :—

"Guthrie of Guthrie,
And Guthrie of Gaigie,
Guthrie of Taybank,
And Guthrie of Craigie."‡

The old part of the castle (which was perhaps built in 1468, when Sir David Guthrie obtained warrant under the Great Seal to erect a stronghold here),§ is a place of great strength, with a square tower of sixty feet in height, and walls nearly ten feet thick, to which the present laird has added a spire and other castellated embellishments. The gateway is a Gothic erection of considerable elegance, being composed of a graceful arch, flanked with towers, and bearing a fine sculpture of the family

* Keith's Catal. of Scotch Bishops, p. 152.

† Mr. Harry Maule of Kelly writes :—"This family of Guthrie [of that Ilk] ended in the time of King Charles the first, and the Barony of Guthrie [was] sold to John Guthrie, Bishop of Murray, who left it to his daughter, whose posterity does now (1738), enjoy it," and it is still (1858) with her descendants. This Bishop Guthrie was of the Guthries of Colliston, in which family there was a Nova Scotia baronetcy, which seems to have become soon extinct.—*Information by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar.*

‡ Guthries were lairds of Pitforth, near Brechin, before and subsequent to 1620. They may have been related to the family of that Ilk. The famous William Guthrie, minister of Fenwick, author of the "Christian's Saving Interest," was a son of Pitforth; and William Guthrie, the historian of a later date, was a member of the same family. The traditionary origin of the family name of *Guthrie*, is well known :—One of the Kings of Scotland being driven on Bervie Brow, a rock on the Mearns-shire coast, found a solitary fisherwoman on the shore, and being hungry, he asked her to *gut twa fish* for him! "I'll *gut three*!" said the loyal dame. "Well," replied the King, "*Gut-three* for ever shalt thou be!" Dr. Jamieson (*Scot. Diet.*, Pref. p. xl.) gives *Guthrie* as a Pictish name, and shews its affinity to some Icelandic and Danish names. It is curious to remark, however, that the oldest spelling of the name of the parish is "*Guthryn*," and that the Gaelic *Gath-erran*, means "a dart-shaped division;" and, by comparing the form of the parish of Guthrie with that of old *flint arrow heads*, the resemblance will be found singularly striking.

§ Crawford's Officers of State.

arms. This was erected by the Arbroath and Forfar Railway Company, whose line of traffic passes over the archway.

The church, for which Sir David Guthrie and his son shewed so much favour, stood on the same site as the present kirk and family burial vault. The Guthrie arms surmount the gateway of the churchyard, with the initials and date, "— G : B · G : 1637." Other fragments bear "1629," "G. 1747," and "M · H · G." Some of the mottos in the graveyard are curious; but the following, from a stone raised by Robert Spence to "his forefathers" in 1774, is the most singular :—

" Beside this stone lyes many *Spences*,
Who in their life did no offences ;
And where they liv'd, if that ye speir,
In Guthrie's ground four hundred year."*

Like the church of Guthrie, that of Carbuiddo, or the southern division of the parish, was in the diocese of Brechin, and a rectory belonging to the church of Guthrie; but the time of its suppression is unknown, and the graveyard only remains.† The family of Guthrie never had a proprietary connection with Carbuiddo. The oldest known superiors were the Earls of Angus, from whom, in all likelihood, it had passed to the Earls of Crawford, for, the Lindsays were also lords of Carbuiddo from at least about the middle of the fifteenth century, down to the early part of the following, when it became the property of Sir Thomas Erskine of Brechin. In 1543, however, Sir Thomas resigned it in favour of his nephew, Superintendent Erskine of Dun,‡ in the hands of whose descendants it has ever continued, the present proprietor being maternally related to the late Colonel Erskine, whom he succeeded in 1830.

Inheritance, and *Meathie-Hour*.

It will, however, be perceived, that although the Earls of Crawford had a long and important interest in Guthrie, there

* The following, from a stone to the same family at Aberlemno, is dated 1756 :—

" Here lyes an honest old race,
Who in Ballgavies land had a place
Of residence, as may be seen,
Full years three hundred and eighteen."

† "Crebyauch," is the oldest orthography of Carbuiddo; the Gael. *Cra-bath*, means "clay and birk wood," both of which are plentiful, not only in the neighbourhood of the kirk, but throughout the district.

‡ Spalding Club Miscel., vol. iv., p. 44.

was no separate house founded in the district by any collateral or immediate branch of the family. It was so also in the parish of Inverarity, though the Kirktown and Hilltown, with other lands in the district, were in their possession from the year 1395, out of which the first Earl gave ten marks for the endowment of a chaplain in the parish church of Dundee.* Though Alexander Burnet of Leys was in possession of the village of Inverarity in 1500,† Sir David of Edzell was lord of the properties which his ancestors held in the parish, and also patron of the kirk, as was Sir Walter of Balgavies, and his son, so late as 1606.

But of the ancient lords of Inverarity there is now no trace, either in ruined castles or legends,—nay, even the Kirktown or village of the days of the Lindsays has disappeared, having been supplanted by the mansion house of Fotheringham, which was so named from the present proprietor, and erected on the site of the old Kirktown.‡ An archway or door of the old kirk was remaining at a late date, and the old burial ground is represented by a mound planted with shrubs, opposite the west window of Fotheringham House. The rivulets Airity (anciently *Arith*), and Denburn unite here, from which circumstance the parish was named. To the original parish of Inverarity, the adjoining district of Meathie-Lour was added about two hundred years ago. Both were in the diocese of St. Andrews, and, after the Reformation, were served by one and the same minister;§ and the kirk of Meathie was “ruinous and decayed” even in Guynd’s time.

The etymology of Meathie-Lour is doubtful, and is written “Mathi-Lur” in the ancient *Taxatio*. The oldest proprietors of Lour with whom we have met, are the Abernethys, one or

* Robertson’s Index.

† Doug. Baronage:

‡ The modern surname of Fotheringham is a corruption of the ancient Fotheringhay, and assumed its present form from the resemblance of *ay* to *m* in old writings. Henry de Fotheringhay swore fealty to Edward in 1296; but they were a family of consideration long before then, being witnesses to some important charters, and bearing arms (ermine, three bars), in the time of William the Lion. Their first known estates were in Tweeddale, and their first Angus-shire property was Baluny, in the parish of Stracathro [?] of which Thomas, the son of Henry, had charters in 1378.—(*Nisbet*.) Powrie was acquired during the subsequent century. Through the marriage of the late laird with the heiress of Scrimgeour of Tealing, this ancient family became allied with the Dudhope race, whose remote progenitor, Sir Alexander Carron, saved the life of Alexander III. when attacked by rebels in his castle at Invergowrie in 1107. *Nisbet* says he is the first knight read of in history, and had his name changed to Scrimgeour, i. e. “a sharp fighter,” for his bravery on the above occasion. The family were hereditary standard bearers of Scotland, and bore a conspicuous part in old times in all the notable transactions of the kingdom.

§ Register of Ministers, 1567.

whom, Sir Hugh, was Chamberlain of Menmuir about 1290; and the male line of this old family failing in co-heiresses, their extensive possessions passed by marriage to the several families of Lindsays, Stewart, and Lesly. Lesly's wife was heiress of the Lour portion, of which Norman de Lesly had charters in 1390.* At some previous time a family here held under the Abernethys, and took the name of Lur of that Ilk, and had, doubtless, been of considerable influence in their time, since they were councillors of the Earls of Crawford;†—they had also been vassals of theirs, for the lands and teinds were in possession of the Duke of Montrose, in the year 1492.‡ Subsequent to this, however, there is a hiatus in the history of these lands which we are unable to supply.—It is certain they were owned in the early part of the seventeenth century by the Carnegies, as, on being elevated to the peerage in 1639, Sir John Carnegie of Ethie assumed the title of Lord Lour. The lands were afterwards given by the second Earl of Northesk to his third son, from whom the present Carnegys of Lour and Turin are descended.

Kinnettles.§

Although the estate of Kinnettles was much later in falling into the hands of the Lindsays, than those of Guthrie and Inverarity, a branch of the family settled here about the year 1511, and flourished in considerable repute for nearly a century and a half. Robert, a cadet of the knightly house of Evelick, and descended from a younger brother of the third Earl of Crawford, was the first Lindsay of Kinnettles. Marjory Lindsay, the wife of the minister of Rescobie (mentioned on the tombstone at that church)|| was, perhaps, a daughter of the last Lindsay of Kinnettles, and aunt to Dr. Thomas Lindsay of Armagh. This

* Robertson's Index. † Lives, vol. i., p. 117. ‡ Acta Dom. Conell., Jan 15.

§ The kirk of Kinnettles was in the diocese of St. Andrews, and is rated in the ancient *Taxatio*, at 18 merks. The name of the parish is misprinted "Kynathes" in Bagman Rolls (p. 164), from which it appears that Nicol de Merton, the parson of the period, swore fealty to Edward I. Kinnettles, Inverarity, and Meathie, were served by one clergyman, a Mr. James Fotheringham, in 1567, who had a stipend of £100 Scots. Mr. Alexander Taylor, the minister (circa 1682), was a poet of considerable imagination, and, when going to Edinburgh with many of his brethren, for the purpose of taking the oaths required by the Test Act, he encountered so great a storm, that he wrote a long poem upon it. Col. William Patterson, who rose from humble birth to the dignified office of Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, was born here in 1755. He died in 1810.

|| See APPENDIX, No. V.

eminent divine, however, was born in England, whether his father went in early life and became rector of Blandford in Dorsetshire. He was the friend and contemporary of Dean Swift, and rose to the important position of Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of all Ireland,* and, dying in 1713, was the last male descendant of the Lindsays of Kinnettles.

Still, although on the death of the Archbishop, all trace of the male descendants of the house of Kinnettles, as well as of Evelick, passed away, collateral descendants of the latter branch not only survive in Perthshire, but also in Angus, two daughters having been united in marriage to influential barons of the latter county. These were Elizabeth and Margaret Lindsay, daughters of Sir Alexander of Evelick, and sisters to the unfortunate youth who was slaughtered in cold blood by his step-brother, James Douglas, in the year 1682.† The former of these ladies was married to John Ochterlony, of the ancient family of that Ilk, author of the interesting and valuable "Account of the Shyre of Forfar," so repeatedly quoted in this volume; and the latter was first the wife of Arbuthnott of Findowrie,‡ and afterwards that of Pierson of Balmadies, to whom she bore seven sons. From these ladies, both maternally and paternally, the present Mr. Pierson of the Guynd is the fourth generation in descent.

It may not therefore be improper to give a brief outline of the house of Evelick, since it has given sons and daughters to other families of provincial note and importance, and is in itself still represented, though not in the direct male line.

Descended from a younger brother of Sir Walter, the first of Edzell, Alexander Lindsay of Evelick (father of the ladies of Ochterlony and Balmadies), was created a baronet in 1666. Besides the son who came by his death in the painful manner already noticed, he had his successor, Sir Alexander, whose son, also Alexander, married Amelia, sister of the celebrated Lord Mansfield, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. All the sons rose to eminence in the service of their country, as did the family of both daughters: Sir David, the eldest, was a General; the second, William, an officer of repute, died in the East Indies; and the youngest, John, for his gallantry during

* *Lives*, vol. II., 283.

† *Scott. Jour.*, vol. I. p. 280.

‡ See APPENDIX, No. V.

the attack on the Havannah, &c., was created a Knight of the Bath, rose to the high rank of Rear-Admiral of the Red, and, dying in 1788, was buried in Westminster Abbey. General Sir David Lindsay left two sons and two daughters: the eldest son was ambassador to Venice, and predeceased his father—the youngest, who succeeded to the title and estates in 1762, was a signal officer at the battle of St. Vincent, and commander of the *Daphne*, and lost his life at Demerara, by the upsetting of a boat in 1799, being the last direct male descendant, and baronet of Evelick.

The succession now devolved on his eldest sister Charlotte Amelia (wife of the Right Honourable Thomas Steele), and the estates of Evelick passed to her son, a Colonel in the Guards, who married a daughter of the Duke of Manchester, by whom he had the present laird, Captain Thomas Steele of the Coldstream Guards, and other children. The sisters of General Sir David of Evelick, were respectively married to Allan Ramsay, the distinguished portrait painter and son of the poet, and to Alexander Murray, afterwards Lord Henderland. The eldest was mother of General John Ramsay, and several daughters, all of whom died issueless. The General's estate was inherited by his cousin, William Murray, now of Henderland; and he and his brother, Sir John Archibald Murray, Knight, Lord of Session, are the nearest representatives, through a female, of the old houses of Evelick and Kinnettles.

Arbroath, Blacklaw, and Panbride.

The cause of the battle of Arbroath, which was fought between the Lindsays and Ogilvys in 1445-6, and the fatal result of it to the latter clan, have already been fully noticed; and, if it were not that the proprietary interest of the Lindsays of Edzell survived longer here than in any other part of Angus-shire, the extent of their holding would barely warrant our taking notice of these. Their wealth in this quarter consisted mainly in dwelling houses, and other burgal and arable lands. Among these were Lady-Bank and its chapel (which were erased about a century ago to make way for the old harbour); the croft of

Darngate, or the postern gate, at the south-east corner of the monastery; the Grinter, or granary croft, situate at the north corner of the burial ground, where the corn and meal belonging to the Abbey was kept; and, St. Ninian's Heuch, among the famous cliffs and caves, east of the harbour.* Though small, these properties gave the family an influence in the town of Arbroath, and, as before noticed, were the last portions of the family inheritance that David, the last laird of Edzell, parted with, it not being until the year 1725,† (ten years after the sale of Edzell), that these were disposed of. Since then, as above noticed, Lady-Bank and its chapel have been swept away; and the other properties have passed through various hands.

Nor, from the small portion which the Lindsays owned in Kinnell, will our space admit of detailing the historical peculiarities of that interesting parish,—suffice it to say that the farm of Blacklaw near Braikie, of which the seventh Earl of Crawford was possessed in 1535-6,‡ was their only property.§ But the more extensive lordship, or barony of Panbride, which Sir Walter Lindsay of Edzell held for forty years from 1463, has greater claims to our attention.

The church was in the diocese of Brechin, dedicated to St. Bride or Bridget, and gifted to the Abbey of Arbroath by William the Lion. The first recorded proprietors of this barony were a Norman family, named Morham, who had a gift of it also from King William.|| They had, perhaps, survived as proprietors of the district until the year 1309, when Robert the Bruce gave a grant of it to his brother-in-law, Sir Alexander Frazer.¶ He fell at Dupplin in 1332, from which period, until 1341, when David II. returned from France, and, it is said, gave the barony to the ancestors of Boethius, the historian, we know nothing of the proprietors.

The *origin* of Boethius' family, as given by himself, is sufficiently romantic, and not much credited; but it is certain,

* For an interesting account of the Abbey, and of the fine scenery of the Cliffs and Caves, see Bremner's Popular Guide-Books. † Crawford Case, p. 203. ‡ Doug. Peerage.

§ Kinnell Kirk was in the diocese of St. Andrews, and, with its chapel, which stood at Balishan, is rated at 20 merks. The kirk had perhaps been dedicated to St. Madoc, as a fountain near the church bears the familiar name of *Maldie's Well*. *Ut sup.*, pp. 144-5.

|| [Chalmers' *Caledonia*, vol. i., p. 591.] The surname of Morham survived long in the district. A tombstone, belonging to a "David Moram," dated 1656, is in the adjoining kirkyard of Monikie.

¶ Robertson's Index.

whether his ancestors came to Panbride at the above date or not, that a family named Boyis or Boyce was designed therefrom in the subsequent century, and that a person of the name of Ramsay married the heiress. This occurred in 1495, and one of their descendants, Isabella Ramsay, was the wife of Thomas Maule of Panmure, by which means the Boyce portion of Panbride was united to the larger part of Panmure. At that time, and for long after, this barony appears to have been divided among several parties, and to have frequently changed hands, for contemporary with the Boyces were the Earl of Huntly,* Sir Walter Lindsay of Edzell, and the Ramsays. Crichton of Sanquhar was possessor in 1507; † Scrimgeour of Dundee in 1511; ‡ and Carnegie of Southesk from 1552§ down to the period of the forfeiture.|| On the sale of the forfeited estates in 1765, Earl William of Panmure purchased the whole barony, and the Maules have been sole proprietors of the parish ever since. Their family burial aisle is at the church, and their principal messuage, Panmure House, which is now being remodded in an elegant and superb manner, is also in the parish.

During the occupancy of Panbride by Sir Walter of Edzell, who was joint Sheriff of the southern parts of Angus with Monorgund of that Ilk, Archibald Ramsay "of Panbride" was greatly harassed by them for the non-payment of certain teinds, in lieu of which his lands and fishings were destroyed, and his heritage otherwise so greatly injured that he was forced to appeal to a higher court. Although Sir Walter was found legally justified in his actions, his conduct goes little to raise him in public esteem, or to belie his general character for severity.¶ The lands of Scryne, which passed through the de Valoniis and Maules, were also in possession of Walter Lindsay, a descendant of Evelick, in 1516.**

* (A. D. 1449-50).—Doug. Peerage—HUNTLY.

† *Ibid.*—CRICHTON.

‡ *Ibid.*—DUNDEE.

§ *Ibid.*—SOUTHESK.

|| In 1691, when the barony of Panbride was in the hands of the Earls of Southesk, it consisted of the teinds of Balmachie, and the following farms:—Kirktoune, Barne-seards, Bowdens-Acre, Mill and Milne Lands, Fisherland, on which there was a boat. There were seventeen tenants who paid a gross rental of 18 bolls, 2 firlots, 1 peck, and 1 lippie wheat; 108 bolls, 2 lippies bear; 61 bolls, 2 firlots meal; £195 10s. 10d. Scots money; 74 capons; 112 hens; 68½ chickens. "The other half of Panbride, life-rented be Mr. James Martine," embraced eight tenants and one boat, and the gross rental of this half amounted to 20 bolls, 1 firlot, 2 pecks wheat; 149 bolls, 2 firlots bear; 40 bolls, 3 firlots meal; £65 6s. 8d. Scots money; 60 capons; 144 hens; and 104 chickens.—*Southesk Rental Book*, quoted *ut sup.*, p. 102.

¶ Acta Auditorum, Nov. 29, 1469, and March 3, 1471.

** Lives, vol. i. p. 147.

Montie, Downie, Dunfnd, Downieken, and Pitairlie.

Next to the lands of Little Pert, near Montrose,* the thanedome or barony of Downie was the earliest acquired of the Lindsay possessions in Angus-shire. As was customary in early times, a family assumed their surname from thence, one of whom, Duncan de Dunny, appears as a perambulator of the boundaries between the lands of Tulloch (Tulloes) and Conon, in 1254;† and to this family or place, the surname of Downie or Downey, which is still common in Angus-shire, may owe its origin. The family of de Dunny had probably been vassals of some lord of greater influence than themselves—perhaps of the lords of Abernethy; for, excepting this Duncan, we have met with no other person named *de Dunny*. When the male line of the Abernethys failed, the Lindsays succeeded to this property through the marriage of Sir David of Crawford with one of the three co-heiresses.‡

Sir Alexander, the first Lindsay of Glenesk, was the third son of Sir David Lindsay of Crawford, to whom, sometime before 1333, this thanedome was resigned, as of that date he mortified a small sum from thence to the Canons of the Priory of Rostinoth;§ and, at a later period, his son the Earl of Crawford gave an annual of twelve marks from the same lands to the altar of Our Lady at Dundee, for the purpose of having mass celebrated for the souls of his predecessors, and his own prospectively. Through some cause now unknown, the name of the Earl of Sutherland occurs in connection with Downie, in 1371; but, in the course of two years, it was again in possession of Lindsay of Glenesk, who not only succeeded to the lands, but according to the charter,|| to the *bondagia*, or services payable by *bondi* or husbandmen. He was also owner of the *nativi* or serfs of the district, and of the *sequele* or their children, who, at the period alluded to, were as much the born slaves of the proprietors of Caledonia, and as subject to be trafficked among, as the negroes in America at the present time; and, it is needless to observe, that in these customs, so analogous to those of

* *Ut sup.*, p. 272.† *Reg. de Aberbrothoc*, p. 325.‡ [*Ut sup.*, p. 300.] In consequence of this alliance, the first Earl of Crawford quartered his paternal arms with those of Abernethy, which is said to have been one of the earliest instances of *quartering* arms in Scotland.—*Borthwick's Remarks on British Antiquities*, p. 75.§ *Reg. Mag. Sigill*,|| *Lives*, vol. i. p. 114.

uncivilized states, the same innate wants, and common practices of all nations are as striking as in the affinity of their warlike and domestic implements.

The thanedome of Downie included the lands of Dunfind and Downieken, which, when coupled with those of Pitairlie and Auchenleck, comprehended nearly the whole of the extensive parish of Monikie, at all of which places there were towers or fortalices. No trace of the castle of Dunfind* is now visible: that of Downieken was in existence when Monipennie wrote, about the beginning of the seventeenth century; and the foundations of Downie castle are yet to be seen on a mound at Old Downie. Of the castle of Pitairlie, a stone, bearing the initials and date, "A · L : I · C · 1631," is built into a wall at the farm offices. A great part of the castle of Monikie was standing at a recent date; but like Pitairlie, only one stone of it is now traceable, bearing, "D · L : B · E · 1587," which shew the Lindsays to have occupied Monikie at a later period than is generally assigned to them.† The subterraneous vaults or cellars of the castle are said still to exist; and the farmer who pulled down the walls, only began to thrive at that time, having come on a secret *pose* of gold and silver, which the Lindsays concealed in the walls before they took their summary departure!

The castle of Auchenleck, or Affleck, is still a fine ruin, of a similar construction, and perhaps age, to that of Inverquharity. This property was also under the superiority of the Lindsays, the Earl of Crawford having renewed the marches of Auchenleck in 1459.‡ The family, who designed themselves of that ilk, were hereditary armour-bearers to the Crawfords.§

* *Dun-Aon*, "the slope of the hills." *Dun* also means a castle. *Dunfind* (vulg. *Densfind*) is popularly believed to signify the *Flood's Den*; and the "briggant" who was burnt at Dundee in 1440, for having "ane execrable faschion to tak all young men and children and eat them" (as told by Pitcottie, vol. I., p. 164), is said to have lived here "with his wayffs and bairnis."

† The kirk of Monikie, in the diocese of Brechin, was early given by William the Lion to the Monastery of Arbroath, and is rated in the ancient *Taxatio* at forty pounds. No fountain near the church bears the name of any saint, but *Kane's Well* (? St. Keyne), adjoins the site of the old chapel of Ardestie. Three sculptured stones were dug from this place some time ago: Two of these bear "† I · H · S." and a human heart pierced by three nails, &c.—the other, "M · A · R.," with a human heart pierced by a sword and three nails, &c. The finest of these was found in course of agricultural improvements by the present tenant, Mr. Fullerton, in the spring of 1852. The Earls of Panmure resided at Ardestie at one time, and the last Earl was born there. A door lintel in one of the cottages bears, "C · I · C · P : 1688" (Countess Jean Campbell of Panmure.) "D · I · A · 1625," is on another stone, surmounted by a *fleur-de-lis*. † *Ut sup.*, p. 169.

‡ The predecessors of the Auchenlecks in this property had, perhaps, been a family sur-named Napier, for in 1296 "Matheu le Naper, de Aghelek," of the county of Forfar, swore fealty to Edward I.—*Ragman Rolls*.

The Lindsays of all these places, however, it may be mentioned, are supposed to have descended from Sir John of Pitairlie, who fell at the battle of Brechin in 1452. The family subsisted in Pitairlie till 1639; and David, who designed himself of that place, was minister of Finhaven and Inverarity in 1576.* In his son the representation of the family of Pitairlie had perhaps ended, and passed to the Lindsays of Cairn in Tannadice, who survived down to the early part of last century. Carlungie and Balhungie were owned by Lindsay of Balgavies down to at least 1606; but the barony of Dunfind became the property of Durham of Grange in 1544.† The thanedome of Downie, the lands of Monikie and Pitairlie, passed at various periods to the family of Panmure, who are still proprietors of them.

The antiquarian peculiarities of this district are interesting, and have been often described; but of these the Cross of Camus, and the story of the battle of Barry, are the most prominent. It is uniformly said that the Danes, who landed on this shore in 1010, were repulsed by the Scots with so great slaughter at this place, that the adjoining burn of Lochty ran with human blood for the space of three days! According to tradition most of the great barons of the kingdom were engaged in this affray, among whom were the Hays of Errol, the Keiths of Dunottar, and the Hassas of Glenbervie in the Mearns. Two brothers of the last-named family are recorded to have fallen in the engagement, and being the last male descendants of a race of landowners, who (as recorded on a curious monument in Glenbervie burial vault), flourished in that parish from A. D. 730, their only sister Helen became heiress, and marrying Oliphard, the hereditary Sheriff of Mearns-shire, was maternal progenitor of the noble family of Arbuthnott.

The Hays and Keiths are commonly said to have gained

* Reg. of Ministers, *et ut sup.*, p. 134.

† [Douglas' Baronage.] The Durhams of Grange, now represented by those of Largs in Fifeshire, were a family of considerable importance in old times, having had a gift of Pitkerro in the parish of Monifieth, from Robert I. They were also councillors of the Earls of Crawford; and their burial place was at the church of Monifieth. A superb monument, bearing fine sculptures of the armorials of the families to whom they were allied, was erected there by the cashier to James VI. It was demolished long ago, and the stones built into various parts of the church;—one of these bears—"Hic sitvs . sepvlchrum . hoc . sibi . posterisque . svls . extrvndvm curavit . vir . clarvs . pivs . ac . provb . . . DURHAM . de . Pitcarr . Argentarius . qvondam . R . Iac . VI . sempiternvs . memor . civis . maiores . eadem . hmc . nomen . et . armia . geretes . hac . in . Parochina . regno . Ro . R . Imo . sese . dein . posverunt . vbi . exinde . hvc . vsqve . clarverunt."

their laurels at Barry, and the death of the Danish chief, popularly named Camus, is attributed to the hand of the latter baron, who is said to have killed him in single combat, at or near to the place where the Cross now stands. It has already been seen that the story of the rise of the Hays is entirely fanciful. So also is that of the Keiths: originally Normans, their remote progenitor was Hervei, the son of Warin, who came thither with David I., from whom he had charters of the lands of *Keith* in East Lothian, by which circumstance alone, he and his descendants assumed their surname.* With regard to their possessions in the Mearns, it may be added, that it was only when Sir William Keith married the daughter and heiress of Sir John Frazer of Cowie that the family acquired property there.†

But, although the stories of the rise of these old families are groundless, and no satisfactory origin can be ascribed to the Cross of Camus, there is every evidence of the neighbourhood having been the scene of at least one, if not a series, of dreadful conflicts, whether arising from the invasion of the Danes or otherwise. Sepulchral tumuli are scattered over the whole district—stone coffins are found in clusters throughout the farm of Carlungie, and skulls and other parts of human skeletons are frequently turned up by the plough.

But, it would appear, notwithstanding that the story of Camus' murder is generally considered fabulous, that the Cross had been raised as a sepulchral monument to *some* person; for, on the ground being investigated by Sir Patrick Maule, in presence of several county gentlemen, about the year 1620, a skeleton in good preservation, and of large dimensions, was found buried below the stone, minus only a small part of the skull.‡ Camuston, the name of the place where the Cross stands, is the name of many other places throughout Scotland, and "Cambestowne" is the old, and even present, orthography of the place in question. It had probably been the residence of the old lairds of Downie, as "the word seems to be the same as Chemmyss and Kames, and means the chief residence of a proprietor; but is to be distinguished from Kaim, the crest of a hill."§

* Chalmers' Caled., vol. i., p. 518.

† Doug. Peerage—MARISCHAL.

‡ Keith is said to have carried off a part of the skull with his sabre, and so killed the chief!

§ See Chalmers' Sculptured Monuments of Angus (p. 13), in which Camus Cross is figured, and everything correctly given that is worthy of being preserved anent it.—The well-known

Ethiebeaton, Broughty Castle, and Brichty.

The property of Ethiebeaton, which lies in the parish of Monifieth, and within two miles of the barony of Downie, also came to the Lindsays at an early date, having been given by Thomas, Earl of Angus, to Sir David of Crawford, in the year 1329.* His son of Glenesk succeeded, through whom it passed to the Earls of Crawford, who continued to hold it from that period until the close of the sixteenth century,† with the exception of a short time about 1580,‡ that Bruce of Earls-hill had connection with it, perhaps through pecuniary loans.

The Gallow Law, or hill, where the lords of the district are provincially believed to have executed offenders in feudal times, is still a prominent object on the south side of the turnpike; and, like many other mounds of the same sort, had most probably been the site of the baron's court. It is also a popular notion, that this place belonged to Cardinal Beaton at one time, and so acquired the distinguishing appellation of *Beaton*. So far from this being the fact, however, it was so called more than two hundred years before the Cardinal's birth, and his name does not occur in connection with it at any time whatever.

It is true that an early lay proprietor, if not the first, bore the famous surname of Beaton. He was Sheriff of Forfarshire in 1290, and, swearing fealty to Edward in 1296, held so steadfastly by his oath, that Robert the Bruce confiscated his lands, and gave them to Alexander Sennescalle,§ from whom they passed to the Earls of Angus. In both of Sennescalle's charters, the name is variously spelled "Archebeatoun," and "Auchykil-bichan," and the name is commonly pronounced *Effiebeaton*.||

The Lindsay connection with the stronghold of Broughty, at the mouth of the Tay, was of short duration, it being only granted by James III. to the Duke of Montrose, at the time he

"Pannure Testimonial"—a column of 105 feet in height, which the tenantry of Pannure erected to commemorate the liberality of the late Lord Pannure, has a prominent position on Downie Hills, a short distance west of Camus Cross. It commands the view of five or six counties; but, contrary to most descriptions, contains neither a bust of Lord Pannure, nor any inscription setting forth the object of its erection.

* Reg. Mag. Sigill.

† Lives, vol. i., p. 447.

‡ Baronage.

§ (A.D. 1309)—Robertson's Index.

|| There was once an old chapel near by, and as *Auch* in Gael. means "a field," and a canonized saint being named *Becan*—"Auchy-kil-bechan" (the *y* and *le* being dims.), perhaps signifies the small field of Becan's kirk.

was made Sheriff of Angus, and again taken from him, along with his Sheriffship, by James IV. It was then given to Lord Gray, who sided with that prince against his unfortunate father at Blackness, and at the still more fatal rencounter of Sauchieburn.* The origin of the name of Broughty is variously accounted for, but Portincraig (though now confined to the opposite headland in Fifeshire), was the oldest name of it, as appears from a description of the boundaries of certain lands and fishings, bequeathed by Gillebrede, Earl of Angus, for the founding of an hospital at this place.† After the forfeiture of Umphraville, the grandson of Countess Maud, the estates of the Earls of Angus were given by Bruce to William de Lindsay, then High Chamberlain; but neither his name, nor that of any of his family, with the exception of the Duke of Montrose above noticed, appears in connection with Broughty.

The Lindsays, however, were old proprietors of the lands and mill of Brichty, in the adjoining parish of Murroes, which have been often confounded with their ownership of Broughty Castle. The lands of Brichty, from our earliest notice of them, belonged to John de Hay of Tillybothwell, who resigned them to the Montealtos of Ferne, from one of whom, Richard, Chancellor of the Cathedral of Brechin, they were acquired by Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk, in 1379.‡ They continued long in the family, and Euphemia, sister of the first Earl of Crawford, had a life-rent therefrom in 1412.§ The Lindsays were perhaps followed in this property by the Arbuthnotts; as Hugh, the son of Robert Arbuthnott of that Ilk, who married the heiress of Balmakewan, was designed of Brychtie,|| about the middle of the fifteenth century.

* The noble family of Gray were proprietors down to the time that Patrick Lord Gray resigned Broughty Castle and conterminous lands in favour of Fotheringham of Powrie, ancestor of the present proprietor.—(*Ut sup.*, p. 299.)

† Reg de Aberbrothoc, p. 37.

‡ Information from Lord Lindsay.

§ Robertson's Index.

|| Nisbet, vol. II., App. p. 89.

SECTION III.

THE LINDSAY PROPERTIES IN MEARNS, OR KINCARDINESHIRE.

COMPARED with the possessions of the Lindsays in Angus, those in Mearns-shire were very limited, both as regards their extent and the time they were in the hands of the family. Still, many of these estates were of great importance, both on account of their value and local position; and some of them were owned by the Lindsays at a remote date, while their historical associations (though not immediately connected with the name of Lindsay), are interesting to all lovers of national history. The most prominent of these transactions—such as the defence of Dunottar, and the secreting of the Regalia in the kirk of Kinneff—are well-known by the writings of many popular authors, and need not be repeated. Our observations will, therefore, be confined to such points of these lands as relate to their possession by *the Lindsays*, and to a few of the less generally understood facts regarding their old proprietary history. The district of Neudos, though situated in the Mearns, being part of the parish of Edzell, necessarily fell under that head, where it has been noticed;*—we shall, therefore, commence with the neighbouring lands of

Fasky, and Phesdo.

The first of these estates lie in the parish of Fettercairn, and the latter in Fordoun. The Wittons, now part of the estate of The Burn (to which they were added by the late Lord Adam Gordon), and the fine property of Fasky, were portions of the lordship of Edzell from an old date. We are not aware when the first of these were acquired; but that of Fasky, including Balfour, was purchased by Sir Walter of Beaufort, in 1471,† from George Lord Lesly of Rothes; and, perhaps, as the Wittons lie contiguous, they had come to the family at the same time. The Easter and Westertown of Balfour, and the lands of Milndeulie (Dooly) are mentioned as Edzell property in the Retours

* *Ut sup.*, p. 19.† *Crauford Case*, p. 150.

of 1699, when the last laird succeeded his father; but Fasky was alienated from Edzell about 1510, and given by James IV. to Sir John Ramsay, the ex-Lord Bothwell, in lieu of his south country estates, of which he was deprived for his adherence to the cause of James III. Ramsay had the lands of Balmain at same time, and his descendants were proprietors, and designed baronets therefrom, till 1806, when the family failed in the sixth baronet.* The fine property, and mansion house of Fasky, were purchased in the year 1829, by Sir John Gladstone, father of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer.

At a later date, Sir John Gladstone bought the lands of Phesdo, Auchcairnie, and Pitnamoon; but with the latter of these, which belonged to the Earls of Ross, the Lindsays never had any connection. All these lands lie in the immediate vicinity of the old Palace of Kincardine; and soon after Bruce ascended the throne, he gave six acres of arable land in the tenement of Auchcairnie, "adjoining to our manor of Kincardine,"† to his faithful follower, Sir Alexander Frazer of Cowie and Kinnell. Phesdo, or as anciently written *Fas-dauche*, (*i. e.*, "the arable land, or davoch, in the forest") lies close to the palace, and, about the same time as Frazer acquired the acres alluded to, Bruce gave the temporalities of Phesdo to the Abbey of Arbroath.‡ Alexander, a descendant of John Lindsay, who acquired the adjoining estate of Broadland about the middle of the fifteenth century, is the first of the name, and, indeed, the first lay proprietor of any name, with which we have met in connection with Phesdo. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Falconer of Halkerton, and owned Phesdo and Auchcairnie, the former of which, and perhaps both, was held by his family down to about the beginning of the seventeenth century. The old manor house of Phesdo stood on a rising ground adjoining the Auchcairnie lands, and commanded a fine prospect of the Howe of the Mearns.

No record, or even tradition, of the Lindsays lives in this district; but the following incident (which is preserved in the

* He was succeeded in the estates by his nephew, Alexander Burnet of the house of Leys, who assumed the name of Ramsay, and was created a baronet of the United Kingdom in 1806. He was followed by his son, who died in 1852, whose son now enjoys the title and remaining portion of the family estates.

† [Reg. Mag. Sigill.] See APPENDIX No. X. for a brief notice of this Palace.

‡ Robertson's Index.

family) regarding their confiscation of the property, is neither devoid of interest, nor, it may be presumed, awaiting on the score of authenticity. The last Lindsay of Phesdo, "and another gentleman being out sporting near Montrose, the one with his greyhound the other with his hawk, the greyhound of the one killed the hawk of the other, 'which presently,' says the Rev. William Lindsay, his great-grandson, 'occasioning a fray among the servants, it ran through the whole clan on both sides, which used to be pretty numerous on such-like occasions. A baillie, which is a magistrate of good authority in Scotland, rushing too hastily in, to appease it, had his arm cut off by John Lindsay, who was in the heat of the quarrel—for which he took advantage of law and confiscated his estate.' ".* The representative of the Phesdo family is Captain Ignace Lindsay, who fought in all the wars of Poland from 1791 to 1830, and was resident in France, an exile, in 1849. According to this veteran's account, his great-grandfather was the first emigrant from Scotland to America, and the rank of nobility was secured to his descendants in Poland, by the diet of 1764.†

It is probable that Phesdo, after its confiscation from Lindsay, came into the possession of the Keiths, for about 1612, Robert Stuart of Inchbreck, is said to have married a daughter of Sir Alexander Keith of Phesdo.‡ The Keiths had probably been followed by Archibald, second son of Sir Alexander Falconer of Halkerton, ancestor of the unfortunate Sir John, who, on being charged with malversation in his office of Warden of the Mint, committed *felo de se* at his residence of Phesdo in 1682.§ His son, James, was a lawyer of great eminence—"one of the privy council of King William and Queen Anne, and one of the first treaters for an Union."|| He died in 1705, at the age of fifty-seven, and in an elegy on his death it is said

"that he came almost,
Astrea like, for to enlight dark dayes
Of vices all, with his clear shyning rayes."

Lord Phesdo's last surviving son died in 1764, and his estates passed to Captain George Falconer, (fifth son of the fifth Lord Halkerton), who was long in the Royal Navy. He died Com-

* Lives, vol. ii., p. 280.

† *Ibid.*, p. 281.

‡ Prof. Stuart's *Antiq. Essays*, p. 13.

§ Haig and Brunton's *Acct. of Sen. Coll. of Justice*, p. 445.

Epitaph in Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh.

mander of the "Invincible" man-of-war, in 1780, and his widow became the wife of John Mill of Ferne.*

Kinneff, and Barras.

The parish of Kinneff (the old church of which is famous as the place where the Regalia of Scotland was concealed during the civil broils of the seventeenth century) contributed largely at one time towards the maintenance of the house of Crawford. The brave "young Alysawnder the Lyndyssay," youngest son of Sir Alexander of Glenesk, was designed of Kinneff, and, as before-mentioned, bore arms at the battle of Otterburne, routed the Duke of Lancaster near Queensferry, and died on the field of Verneuil in 1424.† The castle of Herbertsheil, of which no remains are now traceable, is said to have been tenanted by Lindsays, and may have been the residence of the hero of Verneuil. Besides this castle, however, there were several others in the parish;‡ but of all these a mere fragment of Whistleberry only remains. Apart from Herbertsheil, the Fishertown, and other lands in Kinneff, the Lindsays were also possessed of Barras before the beginning of the seventeenth century, and had perhaps been followed therein by Douglas, a cadet of the noble house of Angus; for in 1640, it was sold by Sir John Douglas to his brother-in-law, George Ogilvy of Lumgair, the future defender of Dunottar and preserver of the Regalia.§

Kinneff was originally granted by William the Lion to a Norman lord named John de Montfort,|| who was a considerable

* *Ut sup.*, p. 193.

† *Ut sup.*, p. 29, &c.

‡ See Old Stat. Acct. of Kinneff, vol. vi., which is more than ordinarily interesting in historical points. Though bearing the minister's name, it was framed by the then school-master, Mr. Niddrie, who came to the parish about 1750.

§ There are several interesting monuments within the church of Kinneff—one to the memory of Governor Sir George Ogilvy of Barras and his Lady, and another of old date to Mr. and Mrs. Granger, who aided Mrs. Ogilvy in preserving the Regalia. The oldest, however, belongs to Graham of Largie and Morpie, who died in 1597. Another to the memory of a family surnamed Honeyman, who were ministers of the parish for four generations, from 1663 to 1781. The first of these was brother to Andrew, Bishop of Orkney, who received the shot of the fanatic Mitchell in his arm, which was intended for Archbishop Sharpe, whom he was accompanying to his carriage at the head of Blackfriars' Wynd, Edinburgh, in July, 1668. The following "reff," from the kirk of Kinneff, is worth noting:—In *Acta Dom. Concilii*, Nov. 12, 1495, Alexander Stratoun of the Knox (of Benholm) had a remission, "for art et part of the reff of ane horse out of Lovnane, et for the reff of ane chaisse out of the kirk of Kynneff, et for the stouthe reff of certane gudis pertening to the King et the merchandis of Edinburghe of the bark et schippis, quihilk brek beside Kynneff, et for arte [et parte of the said action] is alanerly," &c.

|| Chalmers' Caled., vol. p. 591.

benefactor to the Abbey of Arbroath, and a relation—perhaps a brother—was parson of Kinneff, and witnesses one of John's grants from his lands of Glaskeler (? Glaslaw), in the same neighbourhood, in 1211-14.* The Montforts, who were first settled in the Lothians, survived in the Mearns till about the middle of the fourteenth century, as in 1361, Christian, the relic of "John de Monteforti," gave the lands of Kinneff, Slains, Fausyde, and Ricarton, to a person bearing the rather odd name of Simon Schaklok.† This charter was granted at Montrose by David II., but whether Schaklok was followed by John Dolas is matter of doubt. It is certain, however, that in 1398, the first Earl of Crawford had, at least, the Kinneff portion from Dolas; and, although the Earl granted a wadset of that to Gilbert Graham of Morphia, it continued under the superiority of the Lindsays down to the time of Andrew Gray's succession in 1446.‡ The Barras portion of Kinneff, however, had perhaps come to the Lindsays from Sir Alexander Auchenleck of that Ilk, to whom that property was resigned by the co-heiresses of Melville of Glenbervie towards the close of the fifteenth century.§

The name of Kinneff is said to have arisen from one of the Kenneths having had a hunting seat in the parish, and the kirk is sometimes called the "church of Saint Kenneth."|| The remains of an old house near the kirk were known, towards the end of last century, as St. Arnty, or St. Arnold's Kill, and previous to the Reformation, the church of Bervie was a pendicle of Kinneff. Kinneff was in the diocese of St. Andrews, but the kirks of Katerin (Katerline) and Kingornie were in that of Brechin. Both were early gifted to the Abbey of Arbroath—the first by William the Lion, and the latter by Bishop Turpin of Brechin.¶ The church of Katerline is gone, but the graveyard is still used as a place of interment; and the ambry of the old kirk, with the fragment of a stone bearing the rudely incised figures of a cross and sword, are preserved in the substantial wall which encloses the burial place. The oldest tombstone (unfortunately dateless and much mutilated, bears: "TVMVLVS · METELLANE LIVINGSTONE · SPONSE · QVONDAM · ROBERTI · DOVGLASII ") is remarkable as belonging to the parents of the adventurous

* Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 46.

† Robertson's Index.

‡ Wodrow's Biog. Coll., vol. i., p. 234.

† Reg. Mag. Sigill.

§ Acta Dom. Concil., Jan. 21, 1422.

¶ Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 5.

Lady of Governor Sir George Ogilvy, through whose well-known and ingenious scheme the ancient symbols of Scottish royalty were so effectively preserved from the grasp of Cromwell's soldiers.

Both Kingornie and Katerline are places of considerable note. The "chapel well" is still in the neighbourhood of the first, and the church is said to have been originally founded by David II., in gratitude for being landed here in safety with his consort Johanna in May 1341.* About the time of the Revolution, the small property of Kingornie belonged to the father of the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnott, who, on being ejected from his living at the parish church of Arbuthnott, took up his abode on his paternal estate, and here his illustrious son spent his earliest years; but there is now no trace of the old kirk, and its name does not occur in the Register of Ministers for 1567. The earliest proprietors of Katerline were the Fitz-Bernards, ancestors of the Sibbalds of Kair, one of whom, about the year 1206, gave the green cove of the Rath, and mill of Katerline, to the monks of Arbroath.† The site of the Rath, or fort, is still known as "Rath field," and situate near a small inlet of the sea, called Breidin's Bay.‡

Dunottar, Aris, and Lumgair.

The interesting property of Dunottar and its castle, with which the name and valorous actions of the ancient family of Keith-Marischal were indissolubly linked for nearly four centuries, fell into the hands of Sir William Lindsay of the Byres, as the dowry of his wife, Christina, daughter of Sir William Keith, by Margaret Frazer, the heiress of the thanedome of Cowie and other possessions. Lindsay's occupancy of Dunottar, however, was very short; for between the years 1382 and 1397,§ he exchanged it with his father-in-law for the lands of Struthers, in Fife. From the brevity of their ownership of Dunottar, no

* Dalrymple's Annals, vol. ii. p. 228; *et ut sup.*, p. 297. † Reg. de Aberbrothoc, p. 44, &c.

‡ The kirk of Katerline was, perhaps, dedicated to one of the SS. Katherine. It is also supposed that there was a chapel at Barras in old times, dedicated to St. John. There is no evidence for this, however; and as it is certain that a portion of the property belonged to the Knights of St. John, perhaps the name of a hill in the neighbourhood and the idea of the chapel has been gathered from that circumstance, and from the Temple lands.

§ Lives, vol. i., pp. 52, 412.

traditions of the Lindsays exist here or at Uris, of which, and Lumgair, it will be shortly seen, they were lords at an early period.

During the ownership of Lindsay, and down to the year 1390, there was no castle here, although tradition points to an aperture in the existing Keep, by which Wallace is said to have entered and massacred the English, by whom the rock was then occupied. The building on the rock at that time was simply a church, within which the invaders took refuge, and the parson, Walter de Keryngton, swore fealty to Edward at Berwick-on-Tweed in 1296.* The storming of the kirk by Wallace, which occurred about 1297, is thus described by Blind Harry :—

“ Ye Byschop yan began tretty to ma,
 Yair lyffa to get out off ye land to ga.
 Bot yai war rad, and durst nocht weyll affy :
 Wallace in fyr gert set all haistely,
Brynt up ye kyrk, and all yat was yarin,
 Atour ye rock ye laiff ran with gret dyn ;
 Sum hang on craggs rycht dulfully to de,
 Sum lap, sum fell, sum flotyret in ye se,
 Na Sothroune on lyff was lewyf it yat hauld,
 And yaim within yai brynt in powder cauld.”

The kirk was rebuilt, but again burned down by Edward III., the rock being then occupied by the Scots. At that period, and sometime previously, the “ craig ” of Dunottar, as the rock was then termed, belonged in property to the old Earls of Sutherland, the third of whom owned Dunottar at the time of Edward’s seige, was a great friend of David II., and fell at the battle of Halidon in 1333.†

The Sutherlands were succeeded in Dunottar by Matthew de Glocester—of whom or his family we have been unable to learn anything beyond the fact that, through disloyalty, he latterly forfeited the Uris part of his property. Long prior to this, however, in 1341, he resigned Dunottar into the hands of Thomas Rait, who, about this time, became a large proprietor in the Mearns—a fact which proves the family to have been settled in the district at least half-a-century before the time ascribed to them by Nisbet. He says that the name was originally brought to the district in Robert III.’s time, by a fugitive knight, who

* Ragman Roll, p. 169.

† Chalmers’ Caled., vol. i., p. 627.

had killed the Thane of Caldar, and fled for protection to Keith-Marischal, and his son marrying the heiress of Halgreen, his descendants subsisted there down to the close of the seventeenth century.*

It was not, therefore, until the resignation of Rait, which occurred during the last half of the fourteenth century, that the Keiths had connection with Dunottar. Sir William Keith, father-in-law of Sir William Lindsay, married Margaret Frazer, daughter of the Thane of Cowie, and thus became a Mearns-shire baron; and until about 1394, when he demolished the chapel which stood on the craig, or rock, of Dunottar, and erected the castle, he is supposed to have resided at Cowie, in the immediate neighbourhood, where the site of a castle is pointed out on the top of a rock by the sea-side.†

The summary manner in which the kirk was supplanted by the castle, threatened the overthrow of Keith, who was excommunicated by the Archbishop of St. Andrews for his sacrilegious conduct, and only restored by the Pope's bull on making various penitential grants, and erecting another place of worship. This was the origin of the present parochial church, which, though now inconveniently situated for the town of Stonehaven, stands on a delightful mound on the banks of the Carron; and is reached by a beautiful avenue of fine old trees. It was dedicated to St. Bridget, and contains a plain but interesting monument, raised to the memory of the martyrs of the Covenant, a hundred and sixty or seventy of whom were confined in a narrow damp cell of the castle, since then called the "Whig's Vault."‡

It was in the year 1390, soon after the forfeiture of Matthew

* The same industrious and generally exact author, says that the family of Rait came from the country of Rhetia in Germany, from which they assumed their name, and had their first possessions in Caledonia, in the county of Nairn, from Malcolm IV. (*Heraldry*, vol. i.) Several of the name swore fealty to Edward in 1296, and some of them migrated into Angus-shire, where they became small proprietors and clergymen during the seventeenth century. Major Rait of Anniston, near Inverkeillor, is supposed to be the representative of the latter branch.

† The church of "Fethiressach" and chapel, or the kirk of Cowie, were in the diocese of St. Andrews, and rated at twenty marks in the ancient *Taxatio*. The kirk was inscribed to St. Caran, and the chapel to the Virgin Mary. The latter was given to Marischal College, Aberdeen, by Earl George, the founder of that University, and the ruins, which stand on a cliff by the sea-side, are exceedingly picturesque. The old kirk of Feteresso is also a ruin. In vol. i., pp. 287-94, of Spottiswoode's *Miscellany*, the reader will find some Latin verses, by a hitherto unknown poet, of the name of Andrew Stephens, or Stephenson, who was schoolmaster at Feteresso. The poems are in praise of Bishop Forbes of Edinburgh, dedicated to Archbishop Spottiswoode, and dated Feteresso, April 16, 1634.

‡ See a popular account of Dunottar Castle, &c., by the Rev. Mr. Longmuir.

de Glocester, that Sir Alexander de Lindsay of Kinneff, younger son of Catherine Stirling of Glenesk, came into possession of the lands of Uris, Lumgair, and others in the neighbourhood.* The first of these, which passed from Duncan de Walays of Barras, and Matthew de Eychles, portioners of the same, was subsequently resigned by Lindsay to Oliphant of Aberdagie, and Ogilvy of Auchterhouse, it being only at the close of the fifteenth century that Keith Marischal had any interest in Uris;† and, whether by mortgage or otherwise, during the possession of the third Earl Marischal, Patrick Crichton of Cranstown Riddell had retours of that barony. It again fell to the Keiths, however, and was given in wadset in 1672 to the father of the celebrated Robert Keith, Bishop of Caithness and Orkney, author of the *Lives of the Scottish Bishops* and other meritorious books. The Bishop was born here on the 7th of February 1681, and was lineally descended of Alexander, the youngest son of the third Earl Marischal.‡

Besides being an early acquired part of the Lindsay property, Lumgair is farther remarkable as the first Mearns-shire estate of the Ogilvys of Barras, the first of whom, William, second and only surviving son of Ogilvy of Balnagarrow and Chapelton (a cadet of the house of Inverquhar), sold his patrimony in Angus and had a wadset right of Lumgair from Earl Marischal, who was then superior. He married a niece of Strachan of Thornton, by whom he had the brave governor of Dunottar Castle. He and his wife were buried at Dunottar, and the following inscription is on their grave-stone:—"Heir lyes a famovs and worthy gentillman William Ogilvy of Lumger and Catherin Straquhan his spovs he being 76 yeirs of age he departed this lyfe in peace 3 Jany 1650 and shee being 89 yeirs of age departed hir lyfe the 28 of Febr 1651."—The first of the Falconers is said to have had charters of Lonkyir (Lumgair) from David I.;§ but the earliest authentic notice of that family only occurs in the time of William the Lion, when William de Auceps, or William the Falconer, granted certain lands to the kirk of Marington, or Marykirk.||

* Robertson's Index.

† Reg. Mag. Sigill.

‡ [Keith's Catalog., p. xx.] A farm called Chapelton lies about a mile and a half west of Uris; and from Ragman Rolls (p. 165), it appears that John Vicar de Urres, swore fealty to Edward in 1296.

§ Chalmers' Caled., vol. i. p. 541.

|| Reg. de Aberbrothoc.

Benholm.

The lands of Benholm were anciently held by a family who designed themselves *de Benham*, from at least the beginning of the thirteenth century, till towards the close of the fourteenth, when the family of Hew failed in a female, who became the wife of Alexander Lundie,* a cadet of the old family of that name, branches of which settled in Fife and Angus-shire, during the reigns of Malcolm IV. and William I.† The kirk was in the diocese of St. Andrews; and during the time of Lundie, the monks of Arbroath had a gift of a chalder of victual furth of these lands. This occurred in 1398, but towards the middle of the fifteenth century, the Lundies ended, perhaps in Andrew, who is the last designed of the Benholme line.‡ It is certain that Sir John Lindsay of Woodwray and Balinscho,§ held the estate for several years subsequently until 1587,|| when he resigned it in favour of Robert, Lord Altrie, second son of the fourth Earl Marischal, whose daughter, Margaret Keith, became his second wife.¶ After the death of Altrie, who left no issue, John Gordon possessed Benholm for a few years; but it again fell to Keith Marischal, who held it until about the middle of the seventeenth century, when it was purchased by Sir James Ramsay.** It was bought from his heirs by Robert Scott, ancestor of the lairds of Brotherton, but passed recently from that family to the noble house of Cranstoun.††

Blackiemuir, Balmakewan, Morphee, and Canterland.

These, so far as we are aware, are the only other Lands of the Lindsays in Mearns-shire, and none were held by the family for any length of time. Blackiemuir, which is of limited extent, and could boast at a late date of a bleaching and print field, lies on the banks of the Luther, in the parish of Con-

* Reg. Mag. Sigill.

† Caledonia, vol. i., p. 533.

‡ Spald. Club. Miscel., vol. iv., p. 38.

§ Doug. Peer.

|| Crawford's Peerage, p. 31.

¶ *Ut sup.*, p. 277.

** (A.D. 1661)—Acts of Parl.

†† The tower or old manor house of Benholm, which was probably built by Lord Altrie, is much in the style of Auchenleck and Inverquhar; is about 80 feet high, and the walls about five and a-half feet thick. The battlement is broad and massive, with turrets at each corner, overtopped by a pent house.—In Symson's preface to Frazer of Coll's Discourse on the Second Sight, the eldest son of the laird of Nether Benholm is quoted as an authority to shew its existence.

veth or Laurencekirk, and was acquired by the first Earl of Crawford in 1390;* but the term of its occupancy by the family is unknown to us. It had been held either under the superiority of the Abbot of Arbroath or the Prior of St. Andrews, the greater part of the district having been given to the former establishment at an early date,† the lesser part being gifted to the latter by Roger de Wyrfaud, who had the "territory of Cunveth" from Rechenda, daughter and heiress of Wyrfaud de Berkeley‡—hence, perhaps, the origin of the name of *Conveth*, which, according to Skene, means "duty paid to an ecclesiastical superior."§

The lands of Balmakewan lie in the parish of Marykirk. They were possessed by Allan Fawsyde from at least 1329 to 1371, about which time, perhaps, they were acquired by a family who designed themselves *de Balmaquin*. This race failed in the male line about 1450, when Hugh Arbuthnott, second son of Robert of that ilk, married the heiress, and thus came to the estate.|| It probably continued in the Arbuthnott family till the time of its acquirement by Lord Menmuir, the first Lindsay of Balcarres, who was proprietor of it in 1580. A son of Barclay of Johnstone was designed of Balmakewan at a later date.

The lands of Morphje and Canterland, in the parish of St. Cyrus,¶ were also in the family for a limited time. The first of these was acquired by Sir David Lindsay of Edzell in 1588,** and is called Morphyfraser, from the fact of their having been granted to Frazer of Cowie, the trusty follower and relative of

* Reg. Mag. Sigill.

† The Wisharts of Pitarrow held the lands of Mill of Conveth, Hilton, and Scotstown, from Abbot Adam of Arbroath, A.D. 1242.—*Reg. de Aberbrothoc.*

‡ Lyon's Hist. of St. Andrews, vol. ii., pp. 289-90.

§ Laurencekirk, the present name of the parish, was assumed from the old kirk of Conveth having been dedicated to St. Laurence. This church stood about a mile east of the town of Laurencekirk, which owes its existence to the late Lord Gardenstone, a Lord of Session, who obtained a charter for erecting it into a free burgh of barony in 1779. Ruddiman, the grammarian, taught the parish school here for some time; as did Ross, the author of "Lindy and Nory," at a later date. Dr. Beattie, author of "The Minstrel," was born here in 1735. This place is also famous for the manufactory of a species of snuff boxes, similar to those of Cumnock in Ayrshire.

¶ Nisbet's Heraldry, vol. ii., App., p. 89.

‡ The church of St. Cyrus, or Ecclesgrig (i. e. St. Gregory's Church), was dedicated to St. Cyr, whose remains were interred in the old churchyard by the sea side. The church was given to St. Andrews by Bishop Richard (*Reg. de S. And.* p. 138), and the chapel, which was inscribed to St. Laurence, and stood at Chapeltown of Laurieston, was in the same diocese (*ut sup.*, n. p. 24). David Herd, the well-known collector of old Scotch Ballads, was born here in 1781; and George Beattie, author of the popular local poem of "John o' Arnha," was also a native of the parish, and lies buried in the Nether churchyard where some admirers of his genius erected a monument to him. Sir Joseph Straton, of Kirkcaldy, K.C.B., who died in 1840, aged 63, is also interred in the same romantic burial place. He bore a prominent part in the wars of the Peninsula and at Waterloo.

** Reg. Mag. Sigill.

Bruce. Margaret Bruce, Frazer's spouse, and the King's sister, is designed therefrom in 1329;* and the Stewarts of Evandale held the lands from about 1469 to 1493.† Sir Thomas Erskine of Brechin was proprietor of Morphyfraser at an after period; for in 1537 he granted these lands to Forester of Corstorphine,‡ from whom, perhaps, they had passed to the Lindsays.

The adjoining property of Canterland, in the same parish, also belonged to Sir David of Edzell. It was long in the hands of a family surnamed Ramsay, who held under the superiority of the Cathedral of Brechin, to which six chalders of meal was paid annually.§ It was afterwards possessed by a collateral member of the Keiths, from which family it perhaps passed to the Lindsays. John, nephew of the reputed murderer of Lord Spynie, was the last Lindsay of Canterland; and the laird of Edzell and Glenesk having died in 1648 without male issue, he was succeeded in these estates by John of Canterland. This laird was Sheriff of Angus-shire, a friend of the Covenant, and otherwise a person of great worth; but despite his anxious endeavour to redeem the fallen state of his house, and retrieve the fortunes of his family, the losses which he sustained through the quartering of Montrose's soldiers on his lands, the heavy fine imposed upon him for his adherence to the Covenant, and many other serious inflictions, already alluded to, completely baffled his efforts. He died in 1671, a much harrassed and disappointed person, and had two successors in Edzell—his son and grandson—from the latter of whom, the family possessions of Edzell and Glenesk passed to the Earl of Panmure in 1714; and the once powerful race of the Lindsays of Glenesk is now represented as landed proprietors in their native shire by the family of Kinblethmont only, who, as before seen, are sprung from a sister of the last Lord Spynie.

* Robertson's Index. † Acta Aud., pp. 8, 179. ‡ Reg. Mag. Sigill. § Acta Aud., p. 34.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.



No. I.—PAGE 10.

Extract from the Parish Register of Edzell concerning the Jacobite Rable of 1714.

"October 31, 1714.—This day Mr. Gray came to preach, but he no sooner advanced towards the church than he was interrupted and stopt in his passage by a great many persons outhounded and hired by David Lyndesay of Edzell to mob and rable him, and those that were with him, who did violently beat severals of those who came with Mr. Gray to join in divine worship with big staves to the effusion of their blood, and thrust at the breasts of others of them with naked knives and durks, and violently beat them, and did strik them with stones and rungs, and bruised them to that degree that some of them fainted, others lay as dead on the ground for some time, and others of them they drove into the West Watter running by the church, which was very deep by reasone of much rain that had fallen the night befor and that morning, and forced them to wade and pas hither and thither in the said watter until they were almost drowned, and, having suffered them to come out of the water, they cut their cloaths and struck them severely upon the head, so that they had not there health for many moneths thereafter. They also forced Mr. Gray's servent, after having dispersed his hearers, to flee with his horse, so that Mr. Gray himself was oblidged to wade the water with the hazard of his life in his return to the place of his residence for the time: All this the said rablers did, to the great scandale of Religion and profanation of the Lord's day; and to engage them to this day's work the said David Lindesay of Edzell, to his Eternal disgrace, gave the rablers money with ale and brandie to intoxicate them that morning befor they came down from the house of Edzell; and after the said rablers (to wit, John Balfour, Frances Low, Thomas Cowie, David Findlay, all domestick servants to the said Laird of Edzell; William Brechin in Strouan, John Dury in Duryhill, John Kinninment, piper, James Stewart, servant to Thomas Brown in Mains of Edzell, Jannet Buchan and Katharine Beattie, als his servitrix; Magdalen Shuan, daughter to Robert Shuan in Hilsyd of Edzell; Agnes Mathers, daughter to James Mathers in Sleatfoord; Isabel Mathers, spouse to the forsaid John Kinninmint; James Davidson, taylor in Sleatfoord; John Low, younger, maltman there; William Low, merchard, there; James Stewart cotterman to William Bellie, in Bonhard; James Smith, servant to David Smith, in Dalfouper), returned to the house of Edzell, and had given an account to the said David Lindsay of Edzell and some others in company there mett, of their expedition, they were much aplauded by that company; which maltreatment the said Mr. Gray having laid before the Presbytery of Brechine, they ordered him to raise criminal letters against the said David Lindesay and the foresaid rablers, and prosecute them befor the Justiciary Court at Edinburgh; but, befor the day of comperance, the said Laird of Edzell agreed the whole matter with the said Mr. Gray, whereby former differences were compounded, and the said Mr. Gray entered peaceably to discharge his ministerial functions in the parish of Edzell on the 30 day of January 1715," when the Episcopalians delivered over to him the "communion vessells and vestments" which they had all along retained and made use of.

No. II.—PAGE 44.

Extracts from Rental Book of Edzell and Lethnot for 1672, and 1699, mostly in the handwriting of David, the penultimate Lindsay of Edzell.

James Bellie payes yearlie 22 merks, 8 chickens, and 4 poultrie.

William Estine, 10lib for poutrie duetie and tind money, &c., and payed of me for all fees; received a rix dollerare in lou from me June 15, '99: also a boll of meall not compted for.

George Will

John Moleson, 8lib 6s. 8d. and chickens.

John Finlaw, 10 merks, and 6 chickens.

Alexander Davidsons, 10lib for duetie, and all oyr things.

John Low, smith, for his land 20lib and 6 chickens, 8lib of smiddie rent.

George Mathers.

Isabell Donaldson and Margaret Watt, the first vjs. 4d., the other 1lib.

James Christie, in Hillayde of Ballinoe, 10lib, and 6 poutrie.

David Forsyth, yr. 5lib and poutrie.

HOLL OF SCLAITFOORD, possessed be James Hutcheon, 12 bolls of meall,* 40lib of silver duetie, 10 merks of tind money, 12 poutrie, 6 capons.

[One or more leaves are awanting here, but the following six entries evidently refer to feuars of Slateford, now Edzell village.]

That part possessed be John Lyell, 12lib, and 6 chickens.

(*Ibid.*)—John Livingstoune, 22 merks, 4 putrie, and 8 chickens.

(*Ibid.*)—John McKye, 5 bolls of meal, and i boll of bear; 2 merks of tind silver, and 6 putrie.

(*Ibid.*)—Alexr. Low, 6 bolls of meal; 40s. tind silver, 8lib for the smiddie, 8 putrie, for Findly's land, 26lib vjs. 4d., and 2lib tind silver, 6 putrie.

(*Ibid.*)—David Buchane 10 merks, or a hook in harvest, and 6 chickens.

(*Ibid.*)—Robert Anandall.

WOOD OF DALBOGG, possessed be John Burnett, payes yearlie 300 merks allenerlie, together with 80lib for the salmond fishing.—*Nota*: This room is forhand duetie.

MILL OF DALBOGG—Tho. Donne, 28 bolls meal, and 12 bolls bear; 8lib of tind silver, 12 capons, and oblig to uphold the mill, and a swine yearlie.

MEANS OF DALBOGG—Geo. Will, 16 bolls meal, and 8 bolls bear; 8lib of tind silver, 12 poutrie, and a swine.

DENHEAD—John Burne, 6 bolls meall, 2 bolls bear; 5 merks tind silver, 8 putrie, and quarter of butter.

BONSAGARD—Walter Lindsay, 8 bolls of victual q^of 10 firlots bear, and 5 bolls and a half of meal; 8 putrie, and 8 pund of butter; five merks tind silver.

. Alexr. Mill, 3 bolls of meal, and 1 bol of bear; 2 merks and a half of tind silver, 4 putrie.

* The Flars' prices of Forfarshire are not recorded before the year 1780; but the following is a statement of the value of various kinds of victual, according to the Flars of Fifeshire:—

	1672.	Scots.	Ster.		1699.	Scots.	Ster.
Whytt, per boll	£5	0	0	Wheat	£12	0	0
Bear	4	6	8	Bear	9	13	4
Aits and Meall	3	13	4	Oats & Meal p. meas. & Rye	7	13	4
Peas and Beans	4	13	4	Meal by weight	8	6	8
Ry	4	0	0	Pease and Beans	10	0	0
Malt	5	6	8	Malt	10	0	0

COWIEHILL—John Will, 10 bols meal, 5 bols bear ; 10lib of tind silver, and 12 putrie and ane coustom wadder.

LITL TULLO—James Dargyie, 5 bols, 2 firlots of meal, 10 firlots bear ; 5 merks of tind silver, and 20 merks of silver duetie, and quarter of butter, 6 putrie.

(*Ibid.*)—The other prt possessed be James Hodden alias Christison, 3 bols 2 firlots of meal, of bear 6 firlott ; 5 merk of tind silver, 6 putrie, and a quarter of butter.

MUICKELL TULLO—David Walker, 14 bols of meal, 6 bols of bear ; 10lib of silver dutie, 10lib of tind silver, 8 putrie.

MERGYIE—Andrew Smart, 120lib duties, 8lib tind silver, 12 putrie, 6 capons, and q^r butter.—*Nota* : Tak renewed for 5 years (1674) payes 80lib of grassum, and 100libs of wach money.

—John Christison, shipheird in Mergie, 5 merks money.

BLAIRHEAD—James Lyndesay, 40lib of dutie, 8 putrie, and of butter 8lib.

SHEERSTRIPES COTTER LAND—George Will, and James Lyndesay ther, ilk on of them 4lib of money.

PAROCHINE OF NEWDOSK payes yearly of tind silver 26lib.—*Nota* : Att Wittsunday I [i. e. the Laird of Edzell] sett a year's tak to Mr. Thomas Smart of the tinds of this parochine for 600 marks.

PAROCHINE OF LETHNOTT.

CLOCHIE possessed be Da: Toshe payes yearlie 20 bols of meal, 5 bols of bear ; 6lib of tind silver, 40lib of silver dutie, 8 putrie.

(*Ibid.*)—Andrew Smart ther, 20 bols meal, 5 bols bear ; 6lib of tind silver, 50 marks of dutie, 8 putrie.

DRUM CARNE—Alexr. Davidsone, 8 scor and ten merks ; 16 putrie, and ane quarter of butter.

(*Ibid.*)—that part possessed be James Smart, 6 bols bear, 3 bols of oats ; 4lib of tind silver, and 8 putrie—pays a mark of wach money.

(*Ibid.*)—James Gold, 8 bols bear ; 4lib of tind silver, 8 putrie.

MILL OF LETHNOT—James Black, 28 bols meal, and 2 bols of bear ; 12 capons.—The taksman his option to pay 50 merks for 8 of the bols of meal.

TILLIDVIE—John Will, 17 bols meal, 3 bols bear ; 6 bols of tind silver, 8 putrie.

ARGEITH, part of—George Bellie, 40 merks of dutie, 8 putrie, 2lib of butter.

(*Ibid.*)—Andrew Dirra, 40 merks, 8 putrie, and a quarter of butter.

(*Ibid.*)—John Low, 20 merks of dutie, 4 putrie, and 2lib of butter.

(*Ibid.*)—Thomas Smart, elder, 20 merks, 8 putrie, 2lib of butter.

(*Ibid.*)—Thomas Smart, younger, 20 merks, 8 putrie, and 2lib of butter.

BOGYTOUNE—Alexr. Mertyne, 40lib of silver dutie, 8 putrie, and half a ston of butter.

OLDTOUNE—Robert Gibb, 40lib of silver dutie, 8 putrie, and half a stone of butter.

WITTOUNE—Walter Mitchell, 9 bols and a half of meal, and 4 bols and a half of bear ; 7 merks of tind silver, 8 putrie.

(*Ibid.*) the other part—Andrew Smart, 9 bols and ane half of meall, and 4 bols and a half of bear ; 7 marks tind silver, and 8 putrie.

BROCKLAW—David Mertyne, 43lib of tind silver dutie, 8 putrie, and 4lib. of butter.

(*Ibid.*) other part—Da. Cattnes, eldir, 21 merks 6s. and 8d. ; 4 putrie, and 1 lib 8 ounce butter.

Edzell, January the tenth day j^mvi^o and nynti nyn years.

BONHARD—Isobell Fyfe (reliq to John Donaldson), thirtie bols of meale, five bols bear, ten markes tind monij; two bols horse corne, eight poutrie fowls, six capones.

PRIESTOUNE—John Carnegie and John Wobster in Mille of Dillappie, payed yearlie of old twelve bols of meal, six bols of beare, ten marks of tind silver, eight poutrie, six capons, and should have bleitcheid all the Linnin cloath maid in the house. *Nota*: now set to the above named men for sixteen bols of meals, and eighteen bols the ffyt year of thir tak.

COATTERTOUNE OF EDZELL—ilk Coatter payes yearlie two marks tind silver, 4lib of butter for ilk cow, and twelve chickens—Georg Chirstison, Georg Duncan, Alexander Dirrow, Georg McKeye, James Watt, John Croll, William Hall.

WESTSYD AND ACHRY—James Auchinfleck, yor, eighteen bols meal, six bols bear, three bols horse corne, three cairtful of straw, tuo spindell and ane half of yarne; ten libs of tind silver, fourtein poutrie, and nyne capones.

SANDIHILLOCK—James Presock, 12 bols meale, 6 bols bear, 2 bols of horse corne, 2 cairtfull of straw, qch is 48 bottle—ten marks of tind silver, 8 poutrie, 6 capons; 60 heirs of yarne.

BURNROOT—Alexander Smart, 12 bols meale, and 6 bols bear; and for a pairt of another tak, 6 bols meal and on bol bear, 3 bols horse corn, 3 cairtful of stra; ten lib of tind money, 8 poutrie, 6 capons; 60 heirs of yarne.

STRUINE AND INVERESKENDIE, both rooms possessed be John Will—24 bols meal, 12 bols bear, wherof ther is 8 bols converted to 50 marks of money, 20 marks of tind money; 16 poutrie, 6 capons; 120 heirs of yarne; 3 bols hors corne, 3 cairt full of strae.

(*Ibid*)—**CORNMILL, WALKMILL, CAMELL, FEICKSTOUNE**—James Auchinfleck, 51 (bolls) meal, 15 bols bear; 40 libs mony dutie, 18libs. 6s. 8d. tind silver; 4 dozen and a half of capones, 4 dozen and a half of poutrj, or 20 merk; 60 heirs of tind yarne.

MERGIE—Andrew Smart, 120lib money rent; 18 poutrie, 2 stoness of buter, a wedder under the wool; and 100lib for ilk 5 years tacks of Grassum.—*Nota*: He payes so much more for Title to be cleared by his tacks.

NEWDOSK payes of Viccarradage yearlie, 26lib.

PARIOCHIN OF LETHNOT.

CLOCHIE (Whole)—John Lowson, 20 bols of meall, 10s boll bear; 73lib. 6s. 8d. of silver duetie, 12lib of tind money; 2 wedders, 16 poutrie.

DRUMCAIRN—David Gibb, 120lib of silver duetie, 16 poutrie, 4lib of butter, 2 wedders under the wool.—*Nota*: he payes 100 merks of Grassum for 5 years tack.

(*Ibid.*) Upper—the Minister, 8 bols of bear, 4lib of tind money; 8 poutrie, and a wedder.—*Nota*: Ilk undelyvered boll is 10 merks of pryse.

(*Ibid.*) the other part—James Smart, 6 bols of bear, 3 bols of oats, 4lib of tind money; 8 poutrie and ane wedder.—*Nota*: Ilk undelyvered boll is 5lib of pryse; he payes also cess and watch money.

MILNE OF LETHNOT—James Black, 28 bols of meall, 2 bols of bear, 12 capons.—*Nota*: he is liberty to pay 33lib 6s. 8d. for 8 bols of meall.

TILLIDVIE—John Archibald, 17 bolls of meall, 3 bolls of bear; 6lib of tind money, 8 poutrie, and ane wedder.

ABGYTH—David Smart, 26lib 13s and 4d; 8 poutrie, 4lib of butter, at 2 terms and Grassum cess and watch money.—*Nota*: the cess is one merk of each 20, and ye watch money 6s.

(*Ibid.*)—Andrew Dirroc, 26lib 13s 4d; 8 poutrie, 24s of tind money at 2 terms, wt Grassum, cess, and watch money.

NEWBIGGING AND DRUMFURIES—John Smart, 53lib 6s 8d; 12 poutrie, 4lib of buter, his sheep to be cleared by his tack, 2 wedders; and Grassum, cess, and watch money.

BOGTOUNE—Alexr. Martin, 40lib of money; 8lib of butter, 8 putrie, and ane wedder; Grassum, cess, and watch money.

OLDTOUNE—David Tosh, 40lib of money, 8lib of butter, 8 poutrie, and ane wedder; Grassum, cess, and watch money, 25lib. 8s. 6d.

WITTOUNE—Walter Mitchell, 9 bolls 2 fir. of meall, 4 bolls 2 fir. of bear; 4lib 13s 4d of tind money; 8 poutrie, and a wedder; cess and watch money, of Grassum, 8lib for 3 years.

(*Ibid.*)—James Will, 9 bolls 2 fir. of meall, 4 bolls 2 fir. of bear; 4lib 13s 4d of tind money; 8 poutrie, and ane wedder; 20 merks of Grassum for 5 years tack.

BROCKLAW—David Martin, 43lib of silver duetie; 8 poutrie, 4lib of butter, ane wedder under the wooll; 40lib for ilk 5 years tack of Grassum.

(*Ibid.*)—John Durro, 14lib 6s. 8d., 4 poutrie, and ane pound and half butter; 2 wedders in the 5 years tack, and Grassum, ane years duety in the tacks.

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No. III.—PAGE 51.

The Durays of that Ilk, Dempsters to the Lairds of Edzell.

The small farm of Durayhill, with several other parts of the parish, were church lands belonging to St. Andrews, situated in the regality of Rescobie,* and the family of Duray, dempsters of the Lairds of Edzell, long occupied these, and designed themselves "of that Ilk." It was then a separate farm, but is now held in lease along with the farm of Upper Dalfouper.†

The origin of the Durays or dempsters of Edzell is unknown. Their name occurs for the first time in the Parochial Register of 22d December 1644, when "John Dirrow of Dirrowhill was appointed to goe to the presbiterie for . . . competent knowledge to go to the Generall Assemblée which is to be holden at Edinburgh, y^e 22d Jan. 1645." The last time any of them acted along with a Laird of Edzell was at the memorable "rable" of 1714; and, in disposing of the lands of Edzell, David Lindsay gave Duray right to "a desk in the church, upon the east side of the Lindsay's isle." Owing, perhaps, to the prominent lead which Duray took in this rable, the kirk-session were led to challenge his right to the pew; and, notwithstanding that he produced a document confirming the grant from the last

* Retours of Edzell, June 2, 1648.

† "Duray looks like a corruption of *Durward* (a porter or door-ward), or of *Deraek*, constable. The Duray Lea at Aldbar was the piece of grass set apart for the Durward's cow."—*Note by P. Chalmers, Esq. of Aldbar.*

laird's "brother-german," he was found to have usurped the same, and was there-upon turned out of it.

This dispute occurred in 1784, and the decision was so fatal to the family, that they left the district soon after, and there is reason to believe that this person was the last resident of them in Edzell. Though the circumstance is not recorded, they may have been expelled therefrom by the York Buildings' Company, who had no desire to harbour those in their lands who were friendly to the exiled Stuarts. This cause of Duray's removal is inferred from the fact, that some of their distant relatives believe they "left the district and settled about Stonehaven;" which is so far confirmed by a John Durie being there during the stirring movements of "the forty-five." This person was a merchant, and so determined a supporter of the Stuarts, that he appeared in the parish church of Dunottar with a guard of armed men, and read some treasonable papers before the congregation.*

But whether this rebel was of the Durays of that Ilk, we have no means of ascertaining. It is certain that the old stock is now completely out of the district, and a tombstone in the kirk-yard still bears this record of their feudatory holding:—"Here lyes James Duray, son to John Duray of that Ilk, who departed this Life, February 18th 1743, aged 36.

Remember, passenger, as you go by,
This gravestone under which I ly,
Read, and remember what I tell,
That in the Cold Grave thou must duel,
The worms to be thy company,
Till the Last Trumpet set you free."

No. IV.—PAGE 56.

List of Sculptures in the Flower Garden of Edzell.

[This garden has already been described. It is about an acre in extent, and the walls are of polished ashler. Compartments representing the fesse chequée of the Lindsays, and the three stars of the Stirlings of Glenesk, are placed betwixt each of the figures under noticed. Engravings of certain parts of the wall are in Mr. Billings' Baronial Views of Scotland, vol. II.]

THE EAST WALL

contains allegorical representations of the following Celestial Deities, sculptured on oval pannels in low relief, and about eighteen inches in height.

SATURN is represented in Roman Costume, with a sword by his side, and a scythe in his right hand. He holds a boy up in his left, emblematical of his having devoured his own legitimate issue as soon as born, with a view that his kingdom might revert to the Titans, from whom it was taken, and given to him. He wears a chain round his neck, in allusion to his captivity by Titan, from which he was released by his son Jupiter. The figure of a goat, perhaps that of Amalthea, by whose milk Jupiter is said to have been suckled, is at the feet of Saturn. This figure is represented with a wooden leg, a circumstance which

* *Dunottar Session Record, Sep. 21, 1746.*

has led some to suppose that it represents **VULCAN**, who, on falling from the heavens on the Isle of Lemnos with great violence, broke his leg, and was thus rendered lame for life. The sign ♄, and other accessories, are those of Saturn. **JUPITER**, ♃, in Roman Costume, but without a beard, has a sword in his right hand; the left rests on a shield, charged with a fine carving of Cupid shooting an arrow from a cross bow, &c.

MARS, ♂, also in Roman costume, bears a sceptre in left hand, and an oval shield on right arm, with a dog at his feet.

The **SUN** ☉ wears an antique crown and Roman dress. Right hand rests on a shield charged with the Sun, in full splendour. The shield rests on the head of a lion. The left hand holds a sceptre.

VENUS ♀ holds a dart over left shoulder, and a burning heart in right hand. A lamb lies at her feet. Two nude figures are dancing in the back-ground on the right, and a clothed female holds up her right arm on the left, in a beckoning attitude.

MERCURY with the sign ☿ and usual accompaniments of winged caduceus in right hand, and helmet and sandals.

The **MOON**, or **Luna** and **Diana**, as this goddess is variously termed, is represented by a female figure holding a lance in her right hand, and the characteristic sign of a crescent (☾) in her left. Her feet rest on a fish. This figure is over the entrance door to the summer house—so placed, perhaps, from the fact that the ancients supposed her to have the care of all houses and doors during night. She was the daughter of Jupiter by Latona.

SOUTH WALL.

[The Sculptures on this wall represent the Sciences only, with the exception of the Theological Virtue "Charity," which was misplaced during recent repairs. These carvings are in bold relief, and the finest of any in the garden, and from the occasional introduction of objects in the distance, suggest a comparison with the famous gates of the Baptistry of Florence, which acquired Lorenzo Ghiberti so much deserved fame. The Sciences are in square pannels with circular tops, and measure about two by three feet.]

"**GEOMETRIA**," is represented by a female, with a castellated crown and flowing robes. She is describing a globe. A square, compass, and books lie at her feet.

"**MUSICA**."—Female figure (head and neck broken off) playing on a guitar. A harp and other musical instruments lie beside her; and her left foot rests on books.

"**ARITHMETICA**."—Female figuring on a Slate. Two nude figures in back-ground.

"**DIALECTICA**."—A seated female in the act of reasoning. Two frogs at her feet, a dove on her head, and a serpent twisted round her right arm. There is also a small figure in the back-ground.

"**RHETORICA**."—A seated female, holds a caduceus in the right hand, and a roll in the left, with several volumes at her feet.

WEST WALL.

[The Sculptures on this wall represent the Theological and Cardinal Virtues. They are about the same size as the Sciences, but inferior in execution.]

"**F. I. D. E.**" (Faith), with cup in right hand, wrapt in a massive flowing dress, and a serpent at her feet.

- "SPES"—Female figure standing erect, with right hand at breast, and left outstretched. An anchor and antique spade lie at her feet.
- "CARITAS" (misplaced on south wall) represented in the common manner, by a female with a child in each arm, and one at each knee.
- "...TITIA" (Justice), with sword, balance and scales.
- "PRUDEN..." (Prudence), examining her face in a mirror, with a serpent coiled round the left hand.
- "FORTITUDO" pulling down an ornamental column, with the capital of it lying at her feet.
- "TEMPERANTIA" pours water from a jug into a glass. An antique jar stands on each side of the figure.



No. V.—PAGES 170, 164, 284.

Epitaphs, relating to the Lindsays, in various Churchyards in Angus-shire.

A good monument of native freestone, to the memory of a family of the name of Lindsay, is built in the south wall of the church of Rescobie. Like the fine marble tablets to the same race at Maryton and Lunan, this is upheld from an annuity payable by the town of Arbroath, which was especially granted for the purpose. The canopy is supported by two pillars, with these bearings:—"Gules, a fesse chequée arg. and az.; in chief a mullet; in base waves proper"

"Monumentum hoc, in memoriam suorum parentum Mr David Lindsay Pastor de Mary-Toune: Extruendum curavit.—Juxta hunc lapidem depositæ sunt reliquiæ Dom: Henrici Lindsay quondam de Blairifedden qui obiit anno Dom: . . . etat. 72. Et uxoris ejus Alison Scrimseur familiæ Scrimseur de Glasswal quæ obiit anno Dom. 1651 etat. . . . necnon filii eorum dom. Davidis Lindsay Pastoris de Rescobie qui obiit anno Dom. 1677 etat. 62 & ejusdem duarum conjugum Marjoræ Lindsay filiæ Lindsay de Kinnettes & Beatricis Ogilvy filiæ. . . . Ogilvy de Carsbank, quæ obiit anno Dom. 1716 etat. suæ 89. Ibidem loci quoque sepulti sunt nonnulli ejusdem Davidis liberi quorum nomina cœli injuria & prioris cippi vetustate perierunt.—Hoc monumentum positum fuit anno . . . , & instauratum anno 1752."

A superb marble tablet in the church of Maryton, bears the Dowhill family arms and motto, and a long inscription to "David Lyndesius ex prisca Lyndesorum familia de Dowhill," who was thirty-three years minister of the church of Maryton, and the last Episcopal incumbent. He died on the 16th of September 1706, in the sixty-second year of his age. It is also worthy of remark, that a marble tablet at the church of Lunan is analagous in design to that at Maryton. It is erected to the memory of Mr. Alexander Pedey, the last Episcopal clergyman of that parish, and his wife Marjory Lindsay, who may have been a near relative—perhaps a sister—to the parson at Maryton.

Inscription from a freestone tablet in Farnell churchyard, to the memory of Dean Carnegie, founder of the family of Craigo, and his wife Helen, daughter of Bishop Lindsay of Edinburgh.—(*Ut sup.*, pp. 164, 284.) :—

"Sepulchrum M^{tri} Davidis Carnegie de Craigo Decani Brichinen: Rectoris hujus Ecclesiæ qui primo fuit Ecclesiastes Brichinen annos 2 postea hujus ecclesiæ pastor fidelissimus annos 36 qui placide ac pie in Domino obdormivit anno Dom.

1672 ætatis suæ 77. In hac Urna simul cum eo recubant prior ejus Uxor Helena Lindesay ac decem eorum liberi placuit hic inscribere anagramma a Seipso compositum

Magistro Davidi Carnegy
anagramma
Grandis Jesu duc me gratia
distichon

Dum digo in terris expectans Gaudia cœli
Me ducat semper tua Gratia Grandis Jesu."

Tablets bearing the following inscriptions are in the family burial-place of Balmadies. This Cemetery is near the Aldbar Railway Station, is called Chapel-yard, and the door lintel bears "ANO. MDCLXIX." From this period, till 1849, a complete record of the lairds and ladies of Balmadies can be gleaned from the tombstones:—

"Mrs Margaret Lindsay daughter to Sir Alexander Lindsay of Eyliek first married to the laird of Findourie and thereafter to James Piersone of Balmadies to whom she bore seven sons she died about the 56 year of her age on the 11 or 12 of May 1714 and here interred on the 18 a virtuous and religious lady—Me mento mori."

"Mrs Elizabeth Arbuthnot sister German to the present laird of Findourie died of a deceiy about the 18 year of her age a beautiful virtuous and religious young lady and was here interred some years before her mothers death—Me mento mori."*



No. VI.—PAGE 181.

Extracts from Petition and Complaint of Mr. George Tytler, Minister of Ferne, to the Heritors of the Parish, against John Dildarg, Schoolmaster.—January 15, 1778.

It appears that John Dildarg was appointed schoolmaster of Ferne, *pro tempore*, about 1763-4. According to Mr. Tytler's complaint, he was so unqualified for the office of precentor that "singing psalms was like to wear out of the church," and he became so turbulent that no person would "entertain him as a lodger." He also intermeddled with the minister's affairs, and threatened "law processes against him"—tried to detract from his character, and "weaken his hands in the exercise of his ministry," &c. But the more immediate cause of the quarrel betwixt him and the minister, which will be sufficiently explained by the following curious extracts, arose from Dildarg propagating the doctrine of the "unlawfulness of eating blood." "Lifted up," as the Complaint bears, "with a conceit of his own knowledge," the schoolmaster wrote a discourse on the subject of blood-eating, and tried to make proselytes of all and sundry. The complaint proceeds thus:—

"That he carried the point of blood-eating so far, that he attempted, not in a private, but in a very public manner, even in the presence of minister, elders, and communicants (among which last he thought he had formed a party), anent admission to the Lord's Table, to get it enacted that none should be received into com-

* There is an account of the expenses of this young lady's funeral among the Findowrie Papers. It contains many curious items well worthy preservation, but want of space compels us to omit it. The total cost amounted to £332 10s. 4d. Scots, or £27 14s. 2½d.

munion that did not, or would not promise to abstain from eating blood, and because his proposal was rejected, he has not joined in communion here these four or five years at least ; but that this is no real matter of conscience with him, as he pretends, may, without breach of charity, be alleged, because he scruples not to join with other congregations, particularly with that of Brechin, where, considering the many butchers, there will be more blood eaten in a week than in Fern in a twelvemonth.

"That over and above what is mentioned, that he (Dildarg) began many years ago to set up conventicles in private houses, and more publicly in the school-house, on Sabbath-days and other days, when he could get a *conveniendum*, where he preached and prayed, and expounded the Scriptures ; and it was the ordinary way, as I have been credibly informed, to tell them—' Thus, the minister says, but that is what I say !'

" * * * * That towards the end of last year my wife sending a portion of blood and puddings to a poor cripple old woman in the parish, Dildarg, either following or overtaking the servant on the way, and finding it was blood, said that my wife or I might as well sent some lewd person to commit fornication or adultery with her, as send her blood to eat, and in the most serious manner exhorted her to throw it out (as he has persuaded some in the parish to do), and for this purpose lectured over to her the 17th of Leviticus. At the same time also he took occasion to detract from the character of a certain gentlewoman, and to magnify a common dame whose reputation in this countryside is none of the finest.

"That upon hearing this, your complainer wrote to Dildarg on a slip of paper, whether he had said such things—not in expectation of his returning me an answer, but to let him understand that I knew what he had said.

"That he returned me (this) written answer, of date December 18th last (1777) : —' I am surprised at a line which you have sent me, wherein you require me to give you an answer thereto. I am, Sir, under no obligation to answer this line ; for, if I have spoken any evil of you or your wife, it was your business to prove it. You are no Roman Inquisitor, and therefore you cannot oblige me to become my own accuser, and if you had not insinuated that I scandalized a woman of quality, I should not have taken the least notice of it. Whoever told you this, told you a manifest falsehood. Seeing you have, Sir, copied after the infallible church in your expiscating questions in order to make me my own accuser, I hope you will not be offended at me for copying after you. I have two or three questions to propose, and I hope you will give a plain and direct answer to them.—1st. Did you say to any of the parishioners in the summer harvest 1776, that I did nail my cat to the wall of my house in order that I might show the nature of a sacrifice ? If you did, I desire you will inform me who the hellish person was who invented such a lie ; for all the devils in hell could not have contrived a greater falsehood.—2nd. Did you hear your wife about the same time call me a rascal and villain, or words to the same import, to any person ?—3rd. If your wife did give me such names, tell me if her character is agreeable to the character of a bishop or deacon's wife, 1 Tim. i. 11.

"I did aver to Jean Lyal that the eating of blood was as sinful in the sight of God as either adultery or fornication, and I affirm the same thing again, Sir ; for you nor no man shall intimidate me from maintaining the truth, and I have as good reason to judge what is truth as you or any other man ; and I will oppose every error which I hear broached and propagated, be the consequence what will. It is my duty to contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints, and to oppose every error that is subversive of this faith."

No. VII.—PAGE 253.

Letter from Sir David Carnegie, of Pittarrow, Bart., to Alexander Carnegie, Esq. of Balmamoon.

[The laird of Balmamoon, to whom the following curious letter was addressed, was father of the "rebel laird" of 1745. The writer was the second Baronet of Pittarrow, father of Margaret Carnegie, wife of the patriotic Fletcher of Saltoun, and mother of Lord Milton, an eminent Scotch lawyer. Carnegie's grandson, Sir James, succeeded to the Southesk estates on the death of the last Earl in 1729, from whom the present baronet of Southesk is the fourth in succession.]

"To the much honoured the Laird of Ballnamoon.—These

Sir,

As I hear that in absence of the Earle of Northeske yow manage all sea wrack to the best advantage for him And being certantly informed that the Sea has cast in severall casks not only of the best of Brandie, which they that have teasted of; doe assure me: And which brandy does nowayes belong to ye ships seawrackt at Montrose. And also being told that severall casks of ye best ffrench wyne of the same nature were lykewayes cast ashore and seased by you for ye Earles use. Sir my sade sicknes these four moneths bygone and yet continuing (having weakened me extremely beyond expression); my body craves for its support ye best of Liquors indispenseable; I doe earnestly intreat I may have two gallons of the best brandie and als much of the best ffrench wyne at ye current pryce ye rest of ye best shall be sold at; This Sir as I know my Lord will be heartely satesfied with; so when with you I plead ye benefite of blood relation It saves me the pains of farther persuasives. Only you will friendly consider the great need I presently stand in; for my present subsistance and Life; And qch sir from you will be ye most seasonable kyndnes you can express to me; So your answer by this bearer is expected by

Sir,

Your Affectionat humble servant

Pittarrow 12 Apryle 1708."

D. CARNEGIE.

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No. VIII.—PAGE 253.

Notice of the family of Arbuthnott of Findowrie.—From Notes from Findowrie Papers, by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar.

Robert Arbuthnott* of that Ilk, third of the name, was the immediate progenitor of the family of Findowrie. He succeeded his father James, and was thrice married: first to Elizabeth Carnegie, Kinnaird's daughter, by whom he had three sons and one daughter; secondly, to Margaret Pringle of Gallowshiels, by whom he had no issue; and, thirdly, to Helen Clephane, daughter of the laird of Carslogie, who bore him four sons and four daughters. On the 14th of February, 1574, Robert of that Ilk, and his third wife, had charters of the lands of Findowrie, in conjunct fee and life-rent, and to David Arbuthnott, their eldest son in fee, from Robert Cullaiss of Balmamoon. Robert Arbuthnott of that Ilk was succeeded in Arbuthnott by his son, great-grandson, and great-great-grandson. The last of these

* The reader is referred to Douglas' Peerage, vol. i., article, ARBUTHNOTT, for the ancient history of this family, also *ut sup.*, p. 307.

was son to James Arbuthnott of Arrat, near Brechin, and father of the first Viscount of Arbuthnott.

In 1616, Robert, the son of David of Findowrie, married Margaret Graham, daughter of Sir William Graham of Claverhouse, and widow of George Somyr, younger of Balzeòrdie.* This laird was an early acquaintance of the future Marquis of Montrose, who addressed the following friendly note to him, many years before he embarked in those perilous enterprises for which his name is now so famous:—

“To my loueinge frende the larde of findoury.

Loueing frende—I wreatte to you some tyme since to heave keipet ane apoyntment but I harde ye wer from home Wherfor I must intreet you now to take the peans to meite me at auld Montrois upon monday about thrie houres efternone. In doing whych ye shall obliege me to remaine

Y^r louing frende

At Kinarde, the 17 of Sepber, 1631.”†

MONTROSE.

Circumstances, however, cooled Montrose's friendship towards Arbuthnott; for it appears from the subjoined statement of “Losses” which the latter sustained through him and his soldiers, that his lands and tenants were not only harried to a large extent, but his private residence was also burned and pillaged.

The son and grandson of the last-mentioned laird were also staunch supporters of the Covenant, and fined by the Earl of Middleton in the large sum of £2,400; and, as appears by a letter from the Earl of Strathmore, commander of the Angus regiment, while located in Strathblain, on the 18th of June 1685, the laird of the period was a person of so great consequence, that he was chosen by the Earl to command a company of horsemen during that stirring period.‡

This laird was succeeded by his son Alexander, who died before the 18th of September 1707, as of that date his son, by a daughter of Lindsay of Evelick, was served his heir. On the death of the son of the last mentioned Alexander, the male succession failed, and the estates were carried to the family of Balmamoon, through the marriage of the heiress with James Carnegie “the rebel laird,” in the hands of whose descendants Findowrie still continues.

Statement of Losses sustained by the Laird of Findowrie and his Tenants, through the Marquis of Montrose, in 1646.—(From the Findowrie Papers.)

At Brechine the sextein day of October the year of god I^m vj^e and fourtie sex yearis. In presence of James Guthrie of Pitforthie, John Simmer fear of Brathinsch, David Livingstone in Dunleppie, James Ross in Dalbog, George Straton in Achdovie, and Johne Lyone in Aldbar, as ane quorum of the Commissioneris appointit be the Committee of the moneyis and process for the north conforme to the Commissione grantit to them for uptakinge of the Losses conteinit in the said Commissione, Of the qlk quorum the said David Livingstone wes electit preses. Compeirit personallie Robert Arbuthnot fier of Findawrie and his fateris tenantis

* Several carved stones, bearing the initials and arms of this laird and lady, are built into the walls of the farm steading, dated 1638.

† The body of this letter, and the superscription, written by Montrose's servant—the signature his own.

‡ A stone built into the wall of the farm house of Findowrie belongs to this laird's time. It bears the following quaint observation:—“HIC · ARGVS · NON · BRIARI · ESTO · MAY · 12 1684 · R · A · E · R.”

and servandis and his, and gave in thar particular Losses qlk they suffered be the commone enemie be burning out, spuling and robbing, as wes provin sum by Witenesses and sum by oath of pairties, as foleows

Item compeirit Jon Brown in Findawrie and gave in his particular Losses quhair upon being Dewlie sworne deponit, qlkis Losses extends to	£1469	0	8
Item Jon Williamsone in Muriehillock deponit and gave in his Losses being dewlie sworne qlk extends to	704	4	0
Item David Williamsone in Marcus gave his oath and gave in his Losses qlk extends to	368	3	4
Item James Sym at the myln of Markous gave his aith and gave in his Losses qlk extends to	24	0	0
Item the said David Williamsone compeirit for David* Williamsone his brother being seik and gave in his Losses (qlk be his gryt aith he declarit that he knew to be of veritie) qlks Losses extends to	32	0	0
Item compeirit Thomas Cothill cotter in Muiriehillock and gave in his losses and thairupon gave his aith qlk extends to	32	0	0
Item Martha Aikenheid in Muriehillock gave in hir losses and gave hir aith thairupon qlk extends to	25	0	0
Item Isobell Findlie thair gave in hir losses and gave hir oath yrupon qlk extends to	41	10	0
Item Thomas Skair in Litill Markous compeirit and gave in his losses and gave his oath yrupon qlk extends to	68	19	4
Item John Allane in Findawrie compeirit and gave in his losses qur upon he gave his oath qlk extends to	191	3	4
Item David Myller thair gave in his losses qlk extends to	22	6	8
Item Johnne Cramond thair compeirit and gave in his losses qlk extends to	70	13	4
Summa Lateris is	£3059	0	8

T. LINDSAY notar	JHONE LYONE	DAVID LEVINGSTONE
clerk heirto	GEORGE STRATON	J. GOUTHRIE
J. ROSS		JHONE SYMMER

Followes the Losses susteinit be the said Robert Arbuthnot himself by burning of his place of Findowrie, barnes byres office housses and cornes in his barne and barneyard, and by burning of his Ludging in Brechine (victual housses and stabillis) and by destroying of his cornes upon the ground, Robbing and Spulzes of his Nolt scheip horsse and uther gudis and geir comittit be the comone enemie and his complices, as wes judiciallie provin concerning the fulrack of the housse be tradesmen and such as wes not provin the said Robert Arbuthnot fear of Findawrie gave his aith thairupon.

That the Losses above specifiet according to the particularis given be them extends to the soume of	£3984	8	8
Item mair he deponit that he had of cunyeit money qlk wes taken from him be the said enemie out of his hous	2000	0	0
Forder we to quhome this Commission wes grantit and undersubscriyained Declairis that according to oure knowledge and so far as we could have informatione, that he lost be the forsaide enemie of Insicht plenishing with sum Jewellis and silver wark worth the soume off	2000	0	0
Summa Lateris is	£7984	8	8
Summa totalis	11043	9	4

* Sic in orig.

We undersubscriyvand testifie that we haue takin the oathis of the pairties and witnesses above writtin concerning the particularis of the losses given in be the fairsaid persones.

	GEORGE STRATON	DAVID LEVINGSTONE
T. LINDSAY notar	JHONE LYONE	J. GOUTHERIE
clerk heirto	J. ROSS	JHONE SYMMER

The following is the deliverance on the above :

"Aberdene 19 October 1646.

The Comittee of moneyis and process for the north considering the conditiōe of Robert Arbuthnott of Findawrie in the burning and wasting of his hail landis within the schredfome of fforfar done and occasioned by the rebells, doe thairfor suspend all payt of maintenance for the saidis landis of the said schyre, Whill order be gevine be parliament or thair comitties respects. for uplifting thair of, Inhibiting and discharging in the mean tyme, the collectors of the maintenance within the said schyre frome all troubling or molesting of the said Robert Arbuthnott or his tenents thairfor

J. BURGHLY, I. P. D. Com."

Letter from Mr. J. Rait, Aberluthnot (Marykirk) to the laird of Findowrie, on supplying a Vacancy in the Church of Menmuir in 1642.

"Richt Honoble Sir

I heir the kirk of Menmuir is vacand If ye think it expedient my sone Mr. Wm. wold offer his trevellis ther. He hes an inclination to come furth and fears if we get not him setled besyde ws at home he be drawn furth to settill in the north pairtes qlk I wold not desyr for monie causes Alwyis Sr if ye think it a thing liklie ye may use yor moyen (interest) I know ze have a straik (sway) of all ye parochineris Quhan ye come to ye Mearnis I wold wis ze cam yis way and wisit me qu we shall confer at griter lynth Committing yow and all yours to ye tuition of God almightie Remenis

Yor assured cussing to serve yow

Aberluthnot, Aprilis 1642.

MA. J. RAIT."

—o—

NO. IX.—PAGE 266.

Expense of Burning a Witch, A.D. 1649, from Arnot's Criminal Trials, p. 392.—This account, which is printed here merely to shew the great expense which was incurred by the burning of witches, is a voucher of a payment made by Alex. Louddon, factor on the estate of Burncastell, the proprietor being then a minor and infant. It is entered in the factor's books thus :—

'Mair for Margarit Dunhome the time sche was in prison, and was put to death, 065 : 14 : 4.'

Count gifin out be Alexander Louddon in Lylstoun, in ye yeir of God 1649, yeiris, for Margrit Dollmoune in Burncastell.

Item, in the first to W ^m . Currie and Andrew Gray for the watch-		
ing of hir ye space of 30 days, inde ilk day xxx sh. inde		xlvi lib Scotts
Item mair to Jo ⁿ Kinked for brodding of her		vi lib Scotts

Mair for meat and drink and wyne to him and his man	iiij lib Scotts
Mair for cloth to hir	iiij lib Scotts
Mair for twa tare treis	xl sh Scotts
Item mair for twa treis, and ye making of them, to ye warkmen	iiij lib Scotts
Item to ye hangman in Hadingtoun, and fetchin of him, thrie dollores for his pens, is	iiij lib xiiii sh
Item mair for meit and drink and wyne for his intertinge	iii lib Scotts
Item mair fer ane man and two hors, for ye fetcheing of him, and taking of him hame agane	xl sh Scotts
Mair to hir for meit and drink ilk ane day, iiij sh the space of xxx dayes, is	vi lib Scotts
Item mair to ye twa officers for y ^r fie ilk day sex shilline aught pennes, is	x lib Scotts
Summa is iiij scoir xii lib xiiij sh	

Ghilbert Lauder.

Um. Lauder Bilzuars.

Takin of this above written soume twentie-seaven pundis Scotis qlk the said umq Margrit Dinham had of her ain.

92 : 14 : —

27 : — : —

65 : — : —

— o —

No. X.—PAGE 312.

Notice of the Palace of Kincardine.

The ruins of the Palace, or Castle, of Kincardine stand on an wooded eminence which rises about thirty feet above the level of the adjoining lands, at the foot of the Cairn-o'-Mount road. The walls are composed of *chisel* hewn, but mostly hammer-dressed stones, and no part is more than eight feet high—they are of great strength, being constructed on the same sloping principle as harbours and military fortifications. The ground plan is still traceable, and it appears, that, independent of the foundations of the strong gateway and tower (which project twenty or thirty feet from the main building, and a surrounding ditch and defensive outworks), the size of the Palace had been fully five hundred yards in circumference, with an inner court of about two hundred feet. It was inhabited on all sides except the west, which is composed merely of a wall, in which there is an entrance of great width leading to the court; but the principal entrance was on the south. There was also a door on the north, about five feet broad, and two spacious apartments measuring about fourteen by fifty feet, and fourteen by thirty-five feet, are on each side of it. Two other apartments on the east are twenty-two by sixty, and twenty-two by fourteen feet in size. The front wall, though mostly composed of the watch-towers, embrace several variously sized apartments. The outer walls vary from eight to ten feet in thickness—the inner are about three, and some parts of the front so much as twelve feet.

The time of the foundation of this Palace is unknown. Tradition asserts, that it was in existence in the time of Kenneth III., and some writers call it the scene of his murder. It was certainly of note in William the Lion's time, and was

the residence of Edward I., both on his going and returning from the North in 1296, and the scroll of Baliol's resignation was prepared therein. Perhaps the last charter dated therefrom is one to Thomas Rait, by Robert II., in 1383, when he had certain portions of Lumgair from that king.

Kincardine was the seat of the County Courts down to James VI.'s time. It was then a place of considerable importance, with a church and market. The churchyard is still preserved; and the fair, which was removed to Fettercairn at the transference of the Courts to Stonehaven, is known by the name of *St. Mark*, to whom the old kirk of Kincardine may have been dedicated. A cross of hewn stone, gifted to Kincardine by the Earl of Middleton, bearing his arms and initials, "E:I:M," and date "1670," is still at Fettercairn. It ought to be mentioned, that the preservation of the ruins of the Palace and the old kirk is owing to the praiseworthy conduct of the present Sir John Stuart Forbes of Fettercairn, who, on hearing of stones being taken from the Palace to fill drains, put an immediate and effectual stop to the sacrilegious proceeding.



ADDENDA TO THE APPENDIX.

INVENTORY OF FURNITURE IN THE CASTLE OF FINHAVEN IN 1712.

The following Inventory of the Furniture in the Castle of Finhaven, in the time of the "false Carnegy" (ut sup., pp. 161-2), was printed in the Dundee Advertiser of June 6, 1851 (minus interpolations), as from the original in possession of the late John Wedderburne, Esq., Auchterhouse. It gives a good idea of the comforts and luxuries of the landed gentlemen of the period:—

Octo. 27, 1712. Ane inventar of ye ffurniture of ye Houss of Phinhaven as follows.

Imp. In ye skool chamber two bedsteads and a bairns table.

2 It. In ye rid roume a standing bed wt rid hangings, a straw palliace [matress], a ffether bed, a bolster, three pair of blankets, a pillow, on chamber pott of pewter, a chamber box, six rid chairs, a table.

3 It. In ye pentted roume a bedstead wt green hangings, a straw palliace, a fether bed, a bolster, two old down pillows, three pair of blankets, a green cloath upon the bed, a peuter chamber pott, six green chairs, a table and green cloath upon it, the roume hung wt green hennings, a box and a pan.

4 It. In ye gold collured roume a bed hung wt gold coullered hanngins, a tuar-delie, a straw palliace, a ffether bed, a bolster, tuo pillous, a quilt above the ffether, bed, four pair of blankets, a silk quilt, tuo leam [earthenware?] chamber pots, seven gold coullered chairs, a glass, a table and tuo stands, the roume hung wt gold coullered hangins, ane jorn chumlow, wt toaings, chuffie [tongs and shovel], and purring jorn [poker].

5 It. In ye closet a bed wt yellow hangins, a ffether bed, a bolster, a pillow, tuo pair of blankets, a yeellow cowering, a carpit chair, a box and a pan in ye closet, and hung wt yeallow hangings.

6 It. In ye great roume a bed, a straw palliace, a ffether bed, a bolster, a silk quilt, a lame chamber pott, two pillowes, three pair of blankets, seven green chairs,

a glass, a table and stands, ye roume hung wt arras, a skreinge wt a box and a pan. a quilt above ye ffether bed, a chimlow, toaings, chuffle, and purring jorn.

7 It. Ye closet bed hung wt green hannings, a ffether bed, a bolster, a pillow, tuo pair of blankets, a green cloath upon ye bed, a peuter chamber pott, a table wt a green cloath, three carpit chairs, ye closet hung wt green, and an old arm chair.

8 It. The busting [fustian cloth?] roume wt a busting bed shewed wt green, wt a turdiluo, straw palliace, a ffether bed, a quilt above the bed, a bolster, tuo down pillows, three pair of blankits, a holland quilt, a chamber pott of lame, the roume hung wt arras, a glass indented, wt table and stands, an olive wood cabinet, wt nyne carpit chairs and ane armed ane and eighteen pictures on ye chimblow pease, and eleven big ones in ye roume, a chimblow, toaings, chuffel, and purring jorn, a pan and chamber box.

9 It. In ye high dyning roume, the roume hung wt gilded leather,* twelve kean [cane] chairs, a cloak, a big table, a little skringe, a broad before ye chimblow wt chimblow, toaings, chuffle, and purring jorn, wt a pictur on ye wall.

10 It. In ye drawing room, ye roume hung wt arras, a gilded glass, wt fyfteen carpit chairs, six picturs on ye wall, three bottels and tuo picturs on ye braise [chimney piece], a chimlow broad, wt a chimlow, toaings, chuffle, and purring jorn.

11 It. In ye fyne roume, hung wt arras, a japanned cabinet, table, glass, and stands, wt a little japanned dressing glass and dressing box, tuo powder boxes, tuo patch boxes, tuo big brusshes, tuo little brusshes, and a little japanned box, a big pictur and tuo lesser on ye walls, seven chairs.

12 It. In ye closet hung wt blew and whyte hangins, a ffether bed, a bolster, a pillow, tuo pair of blankits, a stool, and a pan.

13 It. In ye nurserie, Mrs. Annes bed,† a caff bed, a ffether bolster, four pair of blankits. It. in Peggies‡ bed, a caff bed, a ffether bolster, four pair of blankits and a cowering. It. in ye Ladys womans bed a ffether bed and bolster and pillow, three pair of blankits. It. in Agnis Ogilvies bed a ffether bed, bolster, four pair of blankits, and a cowering; a big press, tuo stools, whereof on carpit, and a chair, tuo big chists and a littel one, a bairns chair and a bairns pan, tuo chamber potts, and a dressing jorn.

14 It. In ye loa dynning roume hung wt arras hannings, a big table and tuo littel ons, and a by table, twelve Russia leather chairs, eight picturs on ye wall, a chimlow, toaings, chuffel, and purring jorn.

15 It. In ye Laird and Ladys roume, a bed wt blew shewed hanngins, a straw palliace, tuo ffether beds, a boughting [cradle] blankit, a bolster, tuo pillous, four pair of blankits, a holand quilt, a green cloath above ye bed, tuo peuter chamber potts, a cabinet and a chest of drawers, tuo tables, five chairs, a bairns chair and a kein stool, ten big picturs, and tuentie peaper ons, tuo big glasses and ane littel one, three picturs on ye brease, a clock, wt chimlow, toaings, chuffel, and purring jorn, a broad for ye chimlow.

* A small portion of these hangings are in possession of the Rev. Mr. Harry Stuart of Oathlaw. The leather was beautifully embossed with figures and landscapes; the part remaining shews representations of Ceres, Pan, and other heathen Delt. Mr. S. has also a chest of drawers, which was part of the Finhaven furniture. They are called *Earl Beattie's Drawers*, but are of much later manufacture than his time.

† Afterwards Lord Ogilvy of Inverquharly.

‡ i. e. Margaret. She was afterwards the wife of Lyon of Auchterhouse. It was on leaving her residence in Forfar that her brother of Finhaven stabbed the Earl of Strathmore, and took refuge from justice in her "peat-house." *Ut sup.*, pp. 161-2.

16 It. In ye kitchen tuo big potts and a littel one of coper, three brass pans, tuo sause pans, a couer, tuo girdles [cake toasters], tuo brainders [gridirons], a dropping pan, a standirt, five spitts, a scummer, a laidle [divider], a hacking [mincing] knife, five candlesticks, tuo gullies [large knives], and ane èss [*S* shaped] gullie, a frying pan, a pair of toangs, a mortar and pistell, a hand bell, two pair of snufflers and nyne pleats, eight asshits, ane doussing [dozen] and ane half of broth trunchers [soup plates], four dusing of plain trunchers, three basons, and ane pynt stoup, a sowing* sidish [drainer], a coll riddle and tuo backits, a stooll, tuo raxis [frames for holding plates], a copar kettel.

17 It. In ye woman house a bed wt a caff bed ane bolster, ane old chist and ane new on, wt ye standirts of a table, a woull [wool] basket.

18 It. In ye milk house three kims, six milk cougs, three chessers [cheese-presses?] a big table, a reaming dish and sidish, three washing cuidds [tubs] and a big on.

19 It. In ye brew huss three gallon trees,† on eighteen gallon tree, seven five gallon trees, tuo tuentie pynt rubbers, tuo guill fatts [fermenting tun], a masking [mashing] fatt, and a caldring [copper for boiling worts], a barm stop, a tumill, a skimmer, a toun oog [round wooden vessel, with a long handle, used in fermenting beer], a wirt dissh, a wirt skeel [a cooler, or square shallow sort of tub used in cooling worts].

20 It. The rounge oposite to John Strachans, a bed, a ffether bed, bolster and pillow, tuo pair of blankets and a couring, and a caff bolster at ye futt, a table.

21 It. In ye servants rounge a bed wt a caff bed and ffether bolster and tuo pair of blankits; in ye other a caff bed and caff bolster, and tuo pair of blankits, a table and a chair.

22 It. Ye porters rounge, a bed wt tuo pair of blankits and a caff bed and a bolster, a table and a chair and a couring.

23 It. In ye bottle house tuo bufe toubes [beef casks], tuo butter toubes wt covers.

24 It. In ye seller tuo hearing trees [bottle brushes?] wt ane other a big chist, a souing toub.

25 It. In ye cupboord, delivered as follows—tuo silver servers, a silver tanker, four silver salts, sheugar box, tuo spise boxes of silver, tuo silver cadel cupe, tuo silver brandie disshes, a silver pottanger, tuo silver juggs, tuo silver tumblers, twelve silver hefted [handled] knives, eighteen silver fforks, fourteen silver spoons and a big silver one, thirtie-tuo glasses in ye cupboord, and three leam dishes standing high, tuo glass dicanters, ane oyle glass and a vinegar glass, four christall salts, four drinking glasses, tuo leam trunchers, a peuter dicauntor, a big queech [a drinking cup with two or four ears or handles].

26 Novr. ye 3th 1712. It. of chopen bottles twentie three doussing and three.

27 Ane particular account of qt linnings my lady has delivered to Mrs. Adam at her entree, Novr. ye 22d, 1712.

Impr. Off linning sheets fourteen pair, and four pair of ffyne sheets.

It. Of course sheets eighteen pair.

It. Of pillavers [pillowslips?] fortie eight.

It. Of bed sheet tuo.

It. Of neapons thirteen doussing and seven, whereof 5 doussing and seven ffyne.

It. Of toualls [towels] ffyteen.

It. Of table cloaths twelve.

* *Sowens*—flummery made of dust of oatmeal remaining among the seeds, steeped and soured."—(Jamieson.)

† *Gantress*, or stand for holding barrels.

It. Three pair of old sheets for mending the rest, qch she is to compt for.

It. Two cupboard table cloaths.

In another but incomplete inventory, dated 1st November 1709, the first and second entries give a detail, but imperfectly, owing to the manuscript being considerably defaced, of wearing apparel, thus:—

ten fyne schirts wt . . . course shirts . . . seven pair of stockens, with . . . pair of silk ones and a pair of cotton ones.

my ladies cloaths, eight fyne shirts, eight course ones, eight hand kirchiffs, six aprons and tua tueeling ones, four busten west coats, six soot [suits] of night-cloaths, six soot of piners and a combing cloth, three hoods——.

—o—

ADDENDA TO THE TEXT.

Murthill.—(*To follow page 273.*)

THIS property, which lies in the parish of Tannadice,* was also owned by Lindsays at an early period. The omission of Murthill in its proper place arose from our inability to identify it at the time with any lands in the county. This was owing to the metamorphosed form in which it appears both in Robertson's Index and in the Great Seal, where it is severally written "Murletyre," and "Murlettre." Since printing the sheet in which the account of this estate should have appeared, the writer has been favoured with an extract from a notice of it which occurs in the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, where it bears the less obscure form of "Murethlyn."

According to the Great Seal Register, Sir John Lindsay of Thurstown acquired this property from John Wallays of Ricar-ton in the Mearns, in the year 1329. It was held under the superiority of the Crown; and Lindsay's charters being among those which were destroyed by the conflagration of the monastery of Fale, he had these renewed according to the following finding of the assise:—"At a sheriff's court of the King's tenants of Forfarshire, held at Perth on the 21st July, in the thirty-first of David II. (1360), it was found by an assise that the writs which Sir John Lindsay, Knight, had of the lands of Murethlyn, in the sheriffdom of Forfar, were totally burned in the sudden fire of the monastery of Fale; and that the said Sir John held these lands of the King *in capite* for the service of one bowman in the

* In a bounding charter of the Ferne writs, among the Caraldstone papers, the hill of St. Arnold's Seat, in this parish, (*ut sup.*, n. p. 273) is named "St. Ennaud's Seit."

King's army, and three suits yearly at the Court of the Sheriff of Forfar; and that, on that finding, the King renewed his charters."*

Murthill had passed from the Lindsays some time before 1377, for of that date Malcome de Ramsay of Auchterhouse, gave charters of Morthyll, and the tenement of Kinalty to Hew Lyell,† in which family Murthill continued till at least Guynd's time, *circa* 1682.

—o—

Fyfe Mortification.—(Page 112.)

Besides gifting a bell to Navar, Mr. John Fyfe, Minister of that parish, also mortified the sum of a thousand marks Scots, or about £55 11s. 1½d. sterling, "for the maintenance of ane student at the Theologic Colledge of St. Andrews; and whensoever that occasion could not be hade of a student standing in need y^eof, he appointed the said annuel rent to be employed for helping sum poor mens' children to be educat at the gramer schoole of Brechin; and in speciall, that if any of his freinds and relationes stood in need y^eof, these to be preferred before any vther."‡

The first person whom we have found taking advantage of this excellent mortification, was the Rev. Mr. Robert Noray of Lethnot, who, on shewing "his mean condition and inability to educat his two sones at school and colledge," had a grant of the life-rent of the money, by consent of the Bishop and ministers.§ This occurred in 1663, and his example was followed, for a long time, by many others; but by some oversight, the grant fell into disuitude, till revived a few years ago.

—o—

Note to page 186, line 15.

The wife of Alexander Lindsay of the Vayne, was named Elizabeth Bethune, as appears from charters of the lands of Skyne (Scryne), and Vayne, dated respectively 31st Aug. 1547, and 1st April 1550.—(*Information received from Lord Lindsay since the notice of Ferne was printed*). Perhaps Elizabeth was a daughter of Cardinal Beaton, and sister to Margaret Beaton, who was married to the son of the "Wicked Master" of Crawford.

* *Bibl. Harl.* 4628, *MSS. Brit. Mus.*—Copied by P. Chalmers, Esq., of Aldbar.

† Robertson's Index.

‡ *Presby. Rec. of Brechin*, fol. 58.

§ *Ibid.*, fol. 9.

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GENERAL INDEX.

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ERRATA.

Page.	Line.	
2	8	<i>from foot read</i> localities.
3	6	<i>from foot, delete</i> or justiciaries.
13	3	<i>for</i> LUNE <i>read</i> LUMEN.
14	9	<i>after</i> funeral <i>insert</i> have.
15	5	<i>for</i> north <i>read</i> south.
16	8	<i>from foot read</i> compel.
64	4	<i>delete</i> who, <i>then read</i> and are supposed.
68	6-9	<i>delete all mention of the Rev. Mr. Jolly.</i> He was buried at Brechin.
73	1	<i>read</i> remarkable.
92	19	<i>from foot, for</i> picturesque pointed style of old English architecture, <i>read</i> picturesque style of English cottage architecture, with a fancy tower on the east front.
100	17	The pension of a guinea a-week was given by Geo. IV. to Dubrach for life, and to his daughter, should she survive him.
117	25	<i>read</i> Lordship.
127	16	<i>from foot, for</i> person <i>read</i> persons.
130	6	<i>delete</i> minister's.
133	8	<i>delete blank after</i> the <i>and insert</i> the .
138	4	<i>from foot delete</i> that; <i>last line, for</i> are <i>read</i> is.
145	24	<i>for</i> superseded him in <i>read</i> deprived him of.
153	2	<i>from foot for</i> 106 <i>read</i> 160.
154	7	<i>from foot after</i> Auchtermonzie <i>insert</i> , who only lived till 1517, when he was succeeded by his son David, who was placed in much the same position as his uncle the Duke, &c.
186	14	<i>for</i> Sir Walter's <i>read</i> Sir David's.
222	6	<i>delete</i> A in EXEMPLO.
208	4	<i>from foot, read</i> battle of Saughs; <i>line 3, read</i> belongs <i>and</i> is connected.
220	2	<i>read</i> and ordained him.
254	6	<i>from foot, for</i> two <i>read</i> one; <i>line 18, for</i> conduct <i>read</i> fulfil.
283	14	<i>delete</i> of the castle.
294	11	<i>from foot, for</i> was <i>read</i> were.
299	9	<i>for</i> Stracathro <i>read</i> Kettins, <i>and delete</i> (?).
311	7	<i>from foot, for</i> was <i>read</i> were.
314	5	<i>for</i> was <i>read</i> were.
315	19	<i>for</i> close <i>read</i> beginning.
336	18	<i>for</i> MONTBOSE <i>read</i> MONTBOIS.

ADDENDA.—Page 218, line 15.

The name of the first clergyman of Careston is unknown; but on the 26th of March 1663, Mr. Thomas Skinner, master of the Grammar School of Brechin, was inducted to the charge. He was translated to some other church in 1666, for in December of that year, he was succeeded by Mr. Gilbert Skein, master of the Grammar School of Montrose. In June 1679, Mr. William Carnegie was admitted minister, and being "translated to a kirk in the south," was succeeded by John Murray, the last Episcopal incumbent, in October 1681.

THE END.

